
Since the programme is still new, with the first students enrolled in the fall of 2014, evaluations have been a critical part of our continuous effort to improve. The programme has and is continuously evaluating its effort in such diverse fields as marketing, admin processes and course evaluations. The overall evaluation framework of the SRM program is based on the student “life cycle”: recruitment - course evaluation- program evaluation – post graduate. Therefore, the following note should only be seen as part of the program’s overall evaluation efforts.

Course evaluation framework

In accordance with the course evaluation framework given by the Faculty of Social Science each course offered by the SRM-program conducts a midterm evaluation and a final evaluation. The midterm evaluation has so far been conducted orally in class and the final evaluation has been conducted as a digital survey. Based on our experiences during the first year of the program, future oral evaluations will be supported by written evaluations.

The midterm evaluation focuses on topics relevant for the given course. The final evaluation likewise focuses on the performance of the course, the content and the pedagogical effects, but also the role of the particular course in relation to the general learning outcomes of the programme. Thus, the relationship between the courses and the progress it offers is also evaluated.

By the end of each semester the program conducts its own evaluation seminar, which reviews the individual evaluations as well as the coherence of the program. The seminar is furthermore used as a forum for students, lectures, and administration to introduce and discuss new ideas in relation to both content and form. There is a strong focus on how to improve the courses instead of focusing on how well they went during the last semester. The evaluation seminar has the following participants: All involved lectures, 1-3 student representatives, program manager, Head of Studies and Head of Department.

The program also receives feedback from the external examiners. However, there has not yet been comprised an “External Examiners Evaluation Report” which include the SRM-program.

Finally, the programme conducts a series of meetings with external organizations, which are involved in the teaching. This “partnership group” (subgroup of the Departments “Employer Panel”) consists of approx 17 private and public organizations, who contributes to the program e.g. with cases, feedback on midterms and provides internships. These organizations continuously, and at least once a year, evaluate the content and learning objectives of the program, including their impressions of the students they have met as case contributors, during feedback or as internship providers.

Evaluation results 2014-2015

Fall term 2014

In the fall term of 2014 the program conducted both midterm and final course evaluations in all four mandatory courses. The final written evaluations had a response rate of 12.5 to 25 %.
The students found that all four courses were demanding, but also highly rewarding and relevant for their academic as well as their future professional profile. The students found that the courses had met their expectations established prior to enrolment. The evaluations led to minor changes in the sequence of lectures in one course.

The four mandatory courses completed in the fall of 2014 had a pass rate ranging from 87 to 95 % with a grade average between 8.6 and 9.5. The program management is highly satisfied with this result and will therefore not implement any major changes in the courses based on these results.

The individual feedback given by external examiners has been quite positive and has not led to any major changes in the four exam conducted in the winter 2014-15

Based on the very positive feedback from students, lectures and external examiners on the portfolio exam, the program chose to extend this type of exam to the two mandatory electives in the third semester of the program. The portfolio exam consists of a larger written “real life”-product during the semester, which forms the basis of an academic reflective (oral or written) exam in the end of the term.

Spring 2015

Only one course was offered as a mandatory course, exclusively by the programme, in the spring of 2015. The elective courses was offered by the Department of Political Science as a whole, and thereby shared by the programme on political science.

The course conducted midterm as well as a final course evaluation. The final course evaluation had a response rate of 33 %.

The students found all teachers highly capable and engaging, but that the course lacked a distinct relation to the overall learning objectives of the program. The evaluation resulted in a series of steps to strengthen the relation to the rest of the programme. Some of these steps are a restructuring of the course and a redefinition of the content to more clearly show relationship between this particular course and the programmes overall learning objectives.

The course had a pass rate of 100 % and a grade average of 7,53. This result has not resulted in itself resulted in any changes to the course. The individual feedback given by external examiners has been positive and has not led to any major changes in the exam conducted in the summer 2015.

As mentioned in the beginning the elective courses offered to SRM-student were offered by the MSc in Political Science and therefore have been evaluated as part of the MSc in Political Science, but a few important results relates to the SRM-program.

In the spring of 2015 SRM-offered 8 courses as electives to fulfil the requirement of having two elective courses. This meant that there were only few SRM-students in each class and the courses were experienced as less focused than the mandatory courses. Furthermore were some of the courses populated by a high percentage of exchange students at bachelor level. This resulted in mixed evaluations by the SRM-students. Therefore the Heads of Studies (SRM and Political Science) agreed upon to make a pilot project where the elective courses offered for SRM-students only were available for exchange students at the master’s level. Furthermore, the head of studies at SRM-programme decided to reduce the number of elective course in
the following semester in order to make the SRM-student ratio higher in each course. So far there has been a positive feedback on these adjustments.