Evaluation of the education in the Faculty of Humanities

Course and curriculum evaluations are aimed at improving the quality of the education. Each year the Faculty Board adopts an evaluation plan, which is drawn up under the responsibility of the Dean of Education (portefeuillehouder onderwijs) and discussed with the faculty’s Programme Directors (opleidingsdirecteuren), Examination Board and Programme Committees.

Course evaluations

The following criteria are applied when designating a module as requiring evaluation:

- each course is evaluated (at least) once every three years. This means that in any event one-third of all courses will be covered.
- courses taught by new teachers;
- all newly developed (or fundamentally altered) courses;
- courses that are included in the Examination Committee’s annual plan;
- all courses in new or renewed programmes of study;
- all less well rated courses, with scores of < 3.5 for questions overall rating of the quality of the course content, overall rating of the teaching qualities of the teacher and/or overall rating of the exam;
- all courses in the faculty’s university minors;
- courses with more than eight enrolled students which were designated as requiring evaluation in the previous year, but for which no evaluation results are available.

As the previous evaluation system (VUnet DE) will be replaced by a new evaluation system in 2020-2021, it will be possible to use digital questionnaires during the first semester of 2020-2021 only on a limited scale. Other courses may be evaluated using qualitative forms of evaluation (see “Other ways of evaluating education” below) or may, as an exception, not be evaluated at all.

The evaluation reports of courses within one or more programmes can be viewed by:

- the Programme Directors;
- the contacts for evaluations in the programme committees, who are responsible for further distribution to the other programme committee members. The programme committees record their discussions (and, possibly, ensuing actions) regarding the evaluation reports in their annual reports.

Curriculum evaluations

The basic principle is that a programme of study is evaluated in any case before the start of a mid-term review or visitation and after every (major) change to the programme of study. BA and MA questionnaires are sent electronically. The Director of Education may add additional questions to the questionnaire. The period in which the questionnaire is sent is determined in consultation with the programme. The results of curriculum evaluations may be discussed with the Work and Employment Advisory Committee (“Werkveldadviesraad”), as well as with the Programme Committee.

Other ways of evaluating education
There are other ways of evaluating education besides digital evaluations. The chapter about evaluation of education in the Quality Manual of the Vrije Universiteit offers an overview of qualitative methods that can be used to evaluate and improve education, such as: panel discussions, peer review and quick summary of strengths and suggestions. These evaluation methods are encouraged in the faculty.

**National Student Survey**

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam takes part in the National Student Survey, which is conducted every spring. The National Student Survey can provide useful information on how students view their programme. The results of the National Student Survey are considered in the programme annual reports.