



Report VTK International Bureau

Location: BOKU 04.20 – Date: 19 April 2018, 12u30-14u00

Added documents: /

Attendees:

- ERASMUS 2nd year: Anton Spoliy, Tyco Vishd, Julius Graham, Anette Tanjard,
- ERASMUS 1st year Viveth Roy, Kristi Adham, Andres Velasco, Luis Diego Solu, Mahmood Bakhaust shah, Syovash Koremi, Cauilla Wikstrom, Farunn Farruich.
- VTK: Holger Willems (Chairman), Loic Van Hoerlande, Kimberly Snyers

Excused: /

1 Approval agenda

The agenda is approved.

2 Approval report VTK International Bureau

Next year the findings of this report and the surveys will be summarized at the beginning of the international bureau to start the discussion and see what changed.

3 Education Level

What do you think of our professors and our teaching assistants? There exist a lot of difference between the professors and TA's. **How are their methodology and education level compared to your university?**

- What really lacks is feedback on the assessments. This is perceived as a crucial element of the learning experience and to improve. Sometimes several reports have to be written in the same course, but you have no clue if you're doing it well. However they see problems with the large amount of courses in Leuven if feedback would be an additional load.
- The credits do not correspond with the workload of different courses.

Suggestions to make the transition better? Internationals don't have a clue about the exams in Leuven and ask if model exams can be provided. Also answers are important to have an idea about the depth of the answer that is expected. This could be used as a benchmark, so the students have a clue where to aim for. Now a lot of uncertainty is involved because you can be lucky you studied the right way or not. Something also

perceived as very hard are the oral exams and on the spot answering. Someone suggested that they can come together and practice for this type of exams. This can be communicated next year.

Some additional remarks about the education are the high quality of Belgian students and the high workload in Leuven - the large amount of courses in a semester. This is a clear distinction with other universities where they work only on few courses each semester.

4 Entrance Tests

The professors assume you covered a lot of courses already, therefore it would be more optimal to define the backgrounds needed for certain courses. Other solutions are proposed:

1. Make bachelor exams available in English
2. Make the content of bachelor courses available, so they can check the assumed prerequisites.
3. Offer (online) fast track courses.
4. Provide the relevant books.

Only English proficiency tests are currently required for entrance. (TOEFL) However this is perceived by everyone as too easy and not a real proof of your proficiency. GRE is perceived harder than TOEFL and even more useful, but still not useful enough for master students. There is suggested that a 10 min Skype call would be far more useful, both to assess English and analytical skills.

5 University Calendar

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6 Student Representation

It would be very practical if the schedule of the first week would directly be communicated upon subscription to university, currently they have almost no information the first week. An introduction by the faculty would be practical before classes start. Loic sees opportunities for doing this during OD II.

1. VTK International sees currently a dip of the participation in the second semester. OD II could boost this to the same levels as the first semester.
2. More information about courses and how to fill out the ISP could be given during OD II.

7 Question Round

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