



**European Association for
Public Administration
Accreditation**

EAPAA Accreditation Committee Evaluation Report

Evaluation Report with respect to the request for accreditation of The International Institute of Social Studies (ISS), Erasmus University Rotterdam (The Hague – The Netherlands) and FHR Lim a Po Institute for Social Studies (Paramaribo – Suriname), Master of Public Administration in Governance Programme

The EAPAA Accreditation Committee, at its meeting of 3-4 September 2018 in Lausanne has evaluated this programme against the EAPAA Accreditation Criteria.

1. Accreditation Criteria

2. Applicability/Eligibility	
2.1 Domain	The programme fulfils this criterion.
2.2 Geography	The programme fulfils this criterion.
2.3 Programme longevity	The programme fulfils this criterion and can be re-accredited as a fully operational programme.
2.4 Programme variants and locations	The Programme is currently offered in one format only: a part-time Programme provided in one location (Paramaribo, Suriname).
4 Category of accreditation	The Site Visit Team affirms that the MPA programme fits within the requested category and is eligible for EAPAA re-accreditation.
5. Standards	
5.1 Domain of public administration	The programme meets the basic standard of what can be expected from a public administration programme: it is multi-disciplinary, covering the relevant disciplines and taught in an academic mode, incorporating normative theories and empirical evidence.
5.2 Mission of the programme	Following the changes made since the 2011 review, the programme has become more evidently consistent with its mission. The SV team lauds the mission-driven spirit of the programme and of FHR.
5.3 Level	There are sufficient guarantees and quality assurances built into the programme to meet the internationally accepted descriptions of the qualification for an academic master's degree.
5.4 Practice and internships	The knowledge and personal and practical skills provided through the programme align well with the mission and the programme objectives.

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	The SVT recommends the “rebirth” of the alumni council (currently an informal network) and formalisation of its role in programme design since the alumni play such an important role in the public sector and have many insights to offer which would further enhance the programme.
5.5.1 Curriculum Content	
5.5.1.1 Core components	The core curriculum clearly meets the required academic standards, but attention should be given to constantly reviewing the course materials in terms of latest developments in the field and to ensuring that students are exposed to multiple perspectives about ‘government’ and ‘administration’. Progress has been made in better contextualizing the programme to the situation of Suriname and developing countries in general.
5.5.1.2 Other Components	Although specialisation via elective courses might be difficult to organise in the current context of the programme and with relatively small numbers of students, the small scale of the programme enables faculty to constantly monitor possibilities for students to specialise in the different modules (assignments, course work) and the ISP. In this regard, the standard is adequately met. In the medium-term, the issue of specialisation opportunities might be addressed.
5.5.1.3 Structure and didactics of the programme	The structure and didactics of the programme are coherent and in line with the mission and learning goals of the programme. A good mix of learning and teaching methods is achieved over the different modules. Constant attention is needed to the development of students’ academic competences, particularly their analytical skills.
5.5.1.4 Intake	We consider the intake procedures and organisation to be effective. Clear procedures to ensure required competences are in place. Nevertheless, continuous attention to ensuring academic competences is necessary at the initial stages of the programme.
5.5.2 Length	The 2-year programme span reflects the objectives of the programme and the ECTS requirement (72 credits) aligns with similar part-time programmes.
5.5.3 Results	Clear rules and procedures are in place to ensure appropriate standards for module and programme awards. Fulfilment of the programme objectives is constantly monitored, and the programme content and delivery are reviewed to ensure graduates have the necessary knowledge and competences to operate in a changing public sector.
5.6 Quality Improvement and Innovation	
5.6.1 Programme accomplishment	The reflective internal and external environment in which the programme operates ensures demonstrable programme accomplishments. Accordingly, this criterion is achieved. The programme team is to be complimented on the improvements that have been made as a result of the varied review processes. It is recommended that students be formally involved in programme (not just module) reviews and that the alumni network be strengthened and supported.

5.6.2 Curriculum Development	The SVT commends the MPA team on the curricular developments which are currently being implemented. Many important elements of the curriculum development process are working effectively. However, formal procedures should be introduced to involve non-institutional stakeholders, students and faculty (collectively, not just as individuals) in the curriculum development process.
5.6.3 External Reviews	The programme content, organisation and delivery have been amended to reflect previous external reviews. FHR and the MPA team are to be commended for their openness to change and for the reflective approach they have adopted.
5.7 Student Assessment	Robust processes are in place to evaluate student performance in individual modules and clear feedback methods are used. More consideration could be given to methods of assessing overall student performance and overall programme achievements.
5.8 Programme Jurisdiction	Responsibility for the programme is clearly divided between ISS and FHR. Working relations between ISS and FHR are very good. The structures and processes for oversight and operation of the programme are adequately developed and work well. There are some issues, however, that need to be considered.
5.9.1 Faculty nucleus Score:	This criterion is fulfilled in that faculty recruitment and course responsibility are well organised and managed by FHR and ISS. The programme management team also ensures that the mission and distinctive character of the MPA are understood and promoted by faculty. However, the fragmented nature of faculty involvement could lead to co-ordination problems and does not facilitate development of an esprit de corps which would enrich the programme. Efforts to recruit more Surinamese or regional faculty contributors should be prioritised to strengthen the available local academic capabilities and gradually build an appropriately qualified Surinamese faculty nucleus.
5.9.2 Faculty qualifications	There is formal compliance with this criterion. The competences and disposition of the chosen faculty contribute greatly to the programme's success. The SVT recommends that the balance of faculty qualifications and relevant expertise continues to be monitored to ensure the expertise required to achieve the programme's academic ambitions is in place.
5.9.3 Diversity: gender and minorities	The gender mix of the staff is reasonable when contextual factors are considered. The site visit team urges continual formal monitoring of staff gender and diversity dimensions to ensure that students encounter a range of perspectives, cultures, and experiences.
5.10 Admission of Students	The admission goals, admission policy and admission standards are adequate, appropriate and in line with the programme objectives. The programme management team is urged to continue to monitor the gender balance within student cohorts and in the long-term to work towards greater ethnic diversity to reflect Suriname's multi-ethnic population.

	There is a concern regarding the declining student numbers and there is now evidence of the availability of other funded programmes in China, which may in the future affect recruitment.
5.11 Supportive Services and Facilities	The accommodation and facilities for the programme are excellent and very well organised and maintained. The collaboration with The Arthur Lok Jack Global School of Business is an opportunity for FHR in terms of cost cutting and cost sharing.
5.12 Student Services	Student services are more than adequate. Representatives of the FHR are continually available to students and communication channels are available to link students and visiting faculty. It was evident during the site visit that very good relations exist between students and staff.
5.13 Public Relations	The Programme is visible in the country and uses all standard means of communicating its mission and goals. Nevertheless, the SVT urges advertisement of the ISP public defences through local newspapers, social media (Facebook) and their website to involve the public and disseminate the outcomes of students' research. The programme management team might also increase direct contact with decision makers in key positions in the field of public administration in order to further increase awareness of the programme.
6 Additional Criteria	Not applicable.

2. Conclusion

Based on the above evaluation of the specific criteria, the EAPAA Accreditation Committee concludes that this programme meets the criteria for accreditation sufficiently and can be accredited without restrictions.