



**European Association for
Public Administration
Accreditation**

EAPAA Accreditation Committee Evaluation Report

Evaluation Report with respect to the request for accreditation of Masaryk University Faculty of Economics and Administration, Brno, Czech Republic, Master of Public Administration Programme (MFTAP) and re-accreditation of the Master Public Economy and Administration Programme (VES).

The EAPAA Accreditation Committee, at its meeting of 10 September 2019 in Belfast – UK, has evaluated these programmes against the EAPAA Accreditation Criteria.

1. Accreditation Criteria

2. Applicability/Eligibility	
2.1 Domain	Both evaluated study programmes fulfil the primary objective to be accredited as they both provide professional academic level education leading to a formal degree. Both programmes prepare persons for professional roles in the public sector.
2.2 Geography	The Czech Republic is a member of the Council of Europe, therefore the programme falls within the jurisdiction of EAPAA.
2.3 Programme longevity	Both programmes comply with the criterion of longevity.
2.4 Programme variants and locations	<p>The VES programme has full-time and part-time modes and is delivered only in Brno. The part-time programme is composed of blocks of face-to-face tutorials and self-study based on instructions. The part-time mode was not thoroughly addressed in SER but the site visit confirmed that both full-time and part-time modes target the same learning outcomes and students in both formats pass the same final exam/thesis. Because the content and assessment of the part-time version is not different from the full-time mode, both are evaluated as one.</p> <p>The MFTAP programme is being delivered at two locations: the 1st, 2nd and 4th semesters in Brno, and the 3rd semester at the University of Rennes 1 in France (double degree programme). The semester in France is an integral part of the curriculum by involving one month of teaching and two months of internship.</p>
4 Category of accreditation	Both programmes are Master level PA programmes lasting for two years.

5. Standards	
5.1 Domain of public administration	The site visit team is of opinion that both programmes are sufficiently multidisciplinary in character and oriented towards the public sector, to be considered public administration programmes.
5.2 Mission of the programme	Both missions are broad and not very specific. The learning outcomes are clear. The mission process develops mainly along the lines of 'natural' events like internal and external evaluations/accreditations, and informal contacts with practise. The mission of the MFTAP programme does not fully utilise the potential synergies of the two partners and is not carried by the opportunities that a double degree programme offers.
5.3 Level	The site visit team is of opinion that both programmes follow the internationally recognised standards equivalent to a Master's level.
5.4 Practice and internships	The attention to relations with practice is good and is one of the main strengths of both programmes. However, the length of the internship in the VES-programme is rather short (minimum 15 days). In the MFTAP-programme the two internships are a prominent asset of the programme.
5.5.1 Curriculum Content	
5.5.1.1 Core components	The site visit team is of opinion that the core curricula of both programmes are sufficient to be considered public administration programmes. Research methods need more attention; it needs reinforcement in the VES-programme and it needs inclusion in the MFTAP-programme. There is very little collaboration with other faculties of the university in offering the courses (especially in Law and Political Science). The length of the internship in the VES-programme is minimal. Both programmes use little international PA literature; this is also reflected in the literature used in the Master's theses.
5.5.1.2 Other Components	Although the number of electives in the VES-programme is not large, it is sufficient. There are no electives in the MFTAP-programme, but this programme has two internships.
5.5.1.3 Structure and didactics of the programme	Both programmes use a variety of teaching methods. The students are actively involved in the courses. The only remark of the site visit team relates to the lack of interdisciplinary projects that overarch two or more courses.
5.5.1.4 Intake	The intake for both programmes seems adequate. There are no complaints from students or graduates. The uneven level of students may, however, restrict the provision of advanced-level courses.
5.5.2 Length	Both programmes fulfil the criterion for a Master programme.
5.5.3 Results	The results of both programmes are sufficient.
5.6 Quality Improvement and Innovation	

5.6.1 Programme accomplishment	The programmes try to get information on the accomplishment, but the response rates are very low. Students and employers are (very) satisfied. The dropout rate of the VES programme is very high though.
5.6.2 Curriculum Development	The programmes have a quality assurance system. However, due to low responses on written evaluations, the information is mainly found in more informal ways. There is no formal way in which employers and graduates are involved in the programme development. The site visit team is convinced that the programme management and teaching staff is committed towards continuous programme development.
5.6.3 External Reviews	The programmes use the external reviews sufficiently.
5.7 Student Assessment	The University offers a comprehensive set of rules for a balanced and well-structured assessment process. Although the self-evaluation reports do not include the syllabi for all compulsory courses (i.e. they miss courses like: Microeconomics for Public Administration, Macroeconomics for Public Administration, Economic Aspects of European Integration, Economic Theory for Public Administration, Labour Law, Foreign language, Research seminar, Diploma Thesis Seminar), tables 1 and 2 above speak of the diversity of assessment instruments, and of their aim to both incentivize the development and testing the achievement of intended learning outcomes. Pertaining to the ratio of course instructors to students, it allows the former to individually evaluate the student's performance and provide substantial feedback on assignments. Both programmes fulfil this criterion.
5.8 Programme Jurisdiction	<p>The VES programme is administratively steered in achieving its mission and subsequent objectives by the University. The governance of the programme is well arranged, with a clear mandate for the Dean, Department and programme guarantor.</p> <p>The governance of MFTAP at the University of Rennes 1 brings an element of uncertainty, yet all meetings undertaken by the SVT with students and academics involved in the programme, as well as the letter received from Assoc. Prof. Marie-Liesse Hoube suggest that MFTAP is adequately supported by the French partner.</p>
5.9.1 Faculty nucleus	Both programmes comply with this criterion.
5.9.2 Faculty qualifications	The current faculty composition is extremely homogeneous with no-one with a PhD in PA from a solid university. There is very little internationalization in faculty development. Research activities have improved compared to previous accreditation but there is still much room for improvement. It remains unclear how the French faculty contributes to high-quality research and teaching.
5.9.3 Diversity: gender and minorities	Both programmes comply with this criterion.
5.10 Admission of Students	Overall, the admission goals and policies, as well as the admission standards of both programmes are in line with the mission and

	programmes objectives. For both programmes, the management team acknowledges the weakness entailed by a rather limited pool of candidates and is seeking opportunities to increase the attractiveness of programmes.
5.11 Supportive Services and Facilities	The supportive services and facilities provided by Masaryk University are sufficient and functional. The library has an adequate number of publications and electronic sources; the classrooms are adequately equipped with electronics and the campus provides an adequate environment for students and academics altogether. As indicated by students of MFTAP, the campus of University of Rennes 1 is equally attractive and sufficiently functional.
5.12 Student Services	The student services are adequate and effective in the career development of the students. As student attrition is a serious problem, particularly in the VES programme, both programmes have identified the possible risks and are taking measures to reduce student dropout.
5.13 Public Relations	<p>For VES, the programme provides future students and others with adequate information on the programme. Considering the low attractiveness of the programme, a more in depth analysis of the candidates pool and how to reach them in time, might be useful.</p> <p>For MFTAP, a more targeted strategy of communication is strongly recommended. The very substantial advantage conferred through the use of French (both in teaching and in the availability of library sources) could potentially serve to attract strong students both nationally and internationally. The strength of MFTAP's alumni base could also, perhaps, be utilised to promote the programme. The programme is actively using social media to present study environment, projects, and work opportunities to public.</p>
6. Additional Criteria	Not applicable.

2. Conclusion

Based on the above evaluation of the specific criteria, the EAPAA Accreditation Committee concludes that:

- the Master Public Economy and Administration (VES) programme can be re-accredited.
- the Master Public Administration (MFTAP) programme can be *conditionally* accredited for three years.