



**European Association for  
Public Administration  
Accreditation**

## **EAPAA Accreditation Committee Summary Evaluation**

**Master Study Programme Administration – Public Sector Governance, Faculty of Public Administration, University of Ljubljana.**

Summary evaluation with respect to the request for accreditation of the Master Study Programme Administration – Public Sector Governance, Faculty of Public Administration, University of Ljubljana.

In consideration of the Self-Evaluation Report of the above programme, the Site Visit Report of 17 August 2022 of the EAPAA Site Visit Team for this programme, and the response of the programme to the draft of the Site Visit Report, the EAPAA Accreditation Committee, at its meeting of 6 September 2022 in Lisbon, Portugal, has evaluated this programme against the EAPAA Accreditation Criteria (version 9, September 2013).

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Summary evaluation</b>
Mission, objectives and competencies	The programme takes, in line with mainstream European approaches, a multidisciplinary approach to public administration, covering both the “core PA” elements a set of other disciplinary approaches. It is problem and practice oriented in nature. At the same time the specifically public character of its domain is somewhat under-emphasized.
Entry into the programme	The diversity of the student intake is in some respect a strength, whereas in some other respects a weakness of the programme. Much of the latter can however be attributed to cogent national level rules and their implications (such as the dominance of students full-time employed and the huge share of “fake” students). The programme management has been, and is, taking continuous efforts to tackle the resulting challenges though. At the same time, whereas there are already systemic elements in place tackling the diversity resulting from varying academic backgrounds, further steps are being taken (and need to be taken) to place this on a more systematic footing.
Structure of the curriculum	The curriculum offers a good balance between core PA topics on the one hand, and a real opportunity to meaningfully specialize, on the other. The thesis work however is currently not sufficiently integrated into the programme structure. Whereas this can partly be attributed to national level legislative frameworks, this circumstance leads to large dropout among students. Importantly, the programme management is taking steps to alleviate this problem.

Content of the curriculum	The programme offers a set of courses and modules fitting its mission and covering the usual topic areas of EAPAA accredited programs. Some room for development seems to exist nevertheless. Firstly, Political Science is largely missing from the curriculum. This seems to be related to the fact of organizational constraints regarding the collaboration of different faculties within the university. Secondly, methodical and Academic Writing training seems to be somewhat under-developed. Thirdly, the specialization tracks are not fully balanced. These latter issues may be tackled by future programme development measures.
Didactic approach	The didactics employed by the programme reflects its intention to emphasize problem solving and the application of competencies. It seems to exhibit a healthy balance between different instruments and approaches. It is worth noting nevertheless that the didactic elements supporting thesis research are somewhat unstructured and less than ideally systematic (see above the comment on Structure of the curriculum).
Student Assessment	The courses use different types of testing methods, such as final exams, oral presentations, group work, in-between assignments, etc. Some methods, such as group work and peer assessment, seem to be under-utilized nevertheless. The Master Thesis as assessment tool has an important role in assessing students. The programme seems to function properly in this regard. Nevertheless, the difficulties mentioned above with regards to the programme's framework for thesis research and its footing in methodology training have some visible negative implications for the quality of some theses.
Preparation for the labour market	Relationship to practice seems to be a clear strength of the programme. Albeit internship plays a minimal role (note however that almost all students are employed during their studies), real-life applications, study visits, and different types of joint activities with (frequently high level) public administrators are well-established and standard features of the programme.
Results	Evidence suggest that graduated students achieve the intended learning outcomes and possess competencies that match the mission of the programme. However, the dropout rates are surprisingly high. A significant share of dropouts result from external / legal constraints not controllable for the programme management. However, even considering these constraints there is significant room for improvement in this regard, especially in the area of supporting thesis research and the thesis procedure.
Quality monitoring and improvement	There are a highly elaborated and substantive set of measures and instruments for ensuring the continuous monitoring of quality and for triggering corrective steps if necessary.
Faculty	The composition and qualification of the faculty teaching the programme fits the programme objectives and are, generally, up to international standards. However the extent of internationalization could be further improved.
Diversity	The diversity of students and the faculty is adequate.
Responsibility and autonomy	This is another strong feature of the programme: both the formal and the actual roles and processes/procedures are functional and

	instrumental in ensuring a responsible and (pro)active steering and development of the programme.
Supportive services and facilities	The programme has potent physical and human capacities/capabilities in terms of supportive services and facilities.
Research basis	The programme is clearly rooted in the continuous production and incorporation of research results.
Internationalisation	The programme exhibits a proper extent of internationalization in all major dimensions/areas, both qualitatively and quantitatively. This has, in particular, been strengthened by the recent launching of the English language modality of the programme.