



Finnish Higher Education Evaluation Council FINHEEC

Evaluation of centres of excellence in Finnish university education for 2010-2012

FEEDBACK FORM

University of Turku/Faculty of Medicine

1. Mission of the unit

The mission is clearly formulated and includes targets and future perspectives as well as societal needs. The faculty seems to be a pioneer in developing teaching and has a holistic approach to the requirements of the profession. Students' role in the teaching culture is central. The goals for the revision of the curriculum are in line with the societal needs: there is more focus on primary health care.

The unit genuinely enhances interdisciplinarity.

There is an excellent connection between teaching and research. All teachers do research and students are taking part in research projects. Teachers are involved in the graduate school.

The faculty fosters a very close interaction between students and teachers. Students are involved in all stages of the planning and developing process and assessment. The atmosphere is very supportive.

2. Programme and course design

The curriculum has been reformed in a long and well-organised process. Clinical and biomedical sciences have been integrated vertically and horizontally into multidisciplinary modules. The programme offers possibilities of entry through other health professions strengthening multiprofessionalism. The programme is cumulative in its organisation and also tries to strengthen social competencies, e.g. by early patient contact. An additional strength is the large number of elective courses.

The faculty operates a special Medical Education Research and Development Centre, which seems to be a solid coordinating body in the curriculum design and development. Humanities and social sciences are integrated into the curriculum in an exemplary way. The faculty is involved in a number of co-operative projects with various partners.

There is no teaching in Swedish. However, the course where students interview Swedish speaking inhabitants in the archipelago seems to be well integrated into the curriculum, and it is very appreciated by the locals.

3. Delivery of education

The faculty employs a large variety of teaching methods and supports learning by the use of IT. Clinical teaching has been decentralised to ensure knowledge in community health rather than special diseases treated in university hospitals. One form of assessment used is feedback to assist the students in competence developments. Tutoring and student self-assessment are also used. The faculty operates its own pedagogical training unit.

Assessment methods used are diverse and involve innovative practices such as OSCE. The faculty also conducts research on medical education, including teaching and assessment methods.

Tutoring is very systematic and well integrated throughout the whole curriculum. Faculty's tutoring system has been implemented as a good practice also in other faculties at the university.

4. Outputs

The qualitative output of the programme is followed by frequent and longitudinal analysis of students' study orientations, progress and professional development. Study times and employment are good. Feedback from the students is very positive. The unit has put special emphasis on developing students' social and communication skills.

The results of redesigning the curriculum are excellent. Graduates seem to have better knowledge, social skills and intercultural competencies than before. Furthermore, they seem to be better equipped for working in primary health care which is in line with the mission of the unit.

5. Continual development

There is compelling evidence of systematic collaboration between all actors in continual development as well as between different faculties at the university (humanities, social sciences and faculty of education). The unit represents a good example of diverse cooperation and continuous development.

The pedagogical training of the teachers is systematic and supported by educational research. The teachers participate actively in this training.

The faculty has a clear vision how to develop its education further. It aims at decentralising education even further and increasing the use of surveys for employers and other external stakeholders as well as the use of IT to support teaching and learning.