

Semester evaluations, Study Board for Cross-Cultural Fall 2020

CCG

63 students (response rate of 38%) filled out the questionnaire. 35 from 7th semester and 28 from 9th, which is approx. the same response rate as the last couple of semesters and some precautions must be taken in terms on conclusions drawn from responses from less than half the students.

A majority (74%) of the respondents indicate to have spent between 30-40 or 40 hours or more on their studies, equivalent to full time or more, which is a great improvement from the only 35% during spring. This could point in direction of the sudden COVID-19 lock-down during that time affecting study activities. A total of 93% of the respondents evaluate their own work efforts to be satisfactory or above.

Respondents generally state to be well-informed of coherence between study activities in the semester (71%) and find that the academic outcome of attending the programme has been 'big' or 'very big' (71% combined) or 'average' (26%). Only one students describes the benefit as small, and no students as very small. Again, this is a great improvement from the spring semester, which could also here point in direction of effects from the lock-down during spring.

In relation to specific competences obtained or improved, methodological competencies (77%) and theoretical and practical competencies for working within a cross-cultural context (71%) were identified as most important.

The physical environment seems generally to be rated as satisfactory on most factors, but a lot of 'don't know's are indicated, presumably because of the COVID-19 situation, which prevented students from being present at times, and this is also reflected in the comments. However, most comments demonstrate sensitivity towards a difficult situation at the university and is stated overall to be handled well.

All respondents took part in project work and 81% worked with others. 76% agreed that team work went well, while 8% neither agree/disagree, 12% disagree, and 4% completely disagree. It is difficult to estimate from individual answers whether or not the more negative responses come from a particular group or several groups, but it is always the aim to facilitate group work as best as possible. Comments indicated that many issues regarding team work had to do with not being able to meet in person, while also being new to the CCG programme, project writing and ones co-students.

16% of the respondents indicated to have worked with an external collaborator during project work, which is reasonable considering the circumstances of COVID-19, but which is hoped to be higher at a later stage.

Among the students doing internships 63% assess the outcome as very big and big. 38% find it to be average. No students find it small or very small.

84% of the respondents indicate that they have felt well informed about practical issues. Some comments seem to focus on the first weeks of the semester, which is somewhat expected, as everyone has to settle into a new programme and a new semester, which can cause confusion and miscommunication. Also, the constant changes in restrictions due to the pandemic gave an unusual amount of information and coordination for staff and students to handle, which may have caused further confusion, which is hopefully avoided in the future. This year there was also a new curriculum, which seemed to have caused a bit of confusion as well, but which has been adjusted where necessary.

Regarding a general evaluation of the study community, 77% of the respondents reply that they find it satisfactory and 7% unsatisfactory. 17% indicate 'don't know' which is a relatively high percentage, but which may relate to the fact that students have been more isolated at home than normally, making it difficult to comprehend a study community. 86% state that they thrive in the programme, which must be considered relatively high considering the circumstances, although we continuously aim to improve.