

Semester evaluations, Study Board for Cross-Cultural Spring 2021

CCG

60 students out of 170 (response rate of 36%) filled out the questionnaire. 42 from 8th semester and 18 from 10th, 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. Particularly the 10 sem. students are under-represented in this response rate.

A majority (57%) of the respondents on 8. Sem. indicate to have spent between 30-40 or 40 hours or more on their studies, equivalent to full time or more. On 10. Sem. it is only 41%. A total of 68% on 8. Sem. and 80% on 10. Sem. of the respondents evaluate their own work efforts to be satisfactory or above. Being fully online for the whole semester was mentioned by 8th sem. respondents in the qualitative comments to affect students' motivations, which may have affected these numbers.

8th sem. respondents generally state to be well-informed of coherence between study activities in the semester (68%) and find that the academic outcome of attending the programme has been 'big' or 'very big' (53% combined) or 'average' (29%). Five students describes the benefits as small or very small. However, there are also comments on the online format challenging understandings and also information flows.

Regarding 10th sem. students, all respondents indicated to have had positive outcomes of the semester. There were some inconsistencies regarding the information level, but since no comments were included, it is difficult to know what the issue was.

In relation to specific competences obtained or improved, the ability to engage in intercultural collaboration and communication (74%) was identified as the most important among 8th sem. students and among 10th sem. students (80%), which is positive considering the scope of the programme.

Most respondents took part in project work, and the majority did it together with others, which is positive considering that Covid-19 could have impacted possibilities of working together in a negative way. The vast majority stated that the team work went well on both semesters. Comments indicated that some had chosen to work alone due to Covid-19.

11% of the respondents on 8th sem. and 29% on 10th sem. indicated to have worked with an external collaborator during project work, which is reasonable considering the circumstances of COVID-19.

55% of the respondents on 8th sem. and 70% on the 10th sem. indicate that they have felt well informed about practical issues. This is relatively low compared to earlier years, and this despite

the fact that more and more information is provided. This may indicate a certain level of overload among the students, which is also more problematic when things are only taking place online. We are also currently on the first run of a new curriculum, which sometimes require additional adjustments of information. In addition, there seem to be certain misunderstandings in how things work in terms of students' responsibilities, and moreover, false statements were made regarding particular lack of information, as well as critique of issues out of our hands, all of which would need to be addressed in the future.

Programme Evaluation

This evaluation was answered by 60 students, and 66% of the respondents experience the coherence and progression between modules/courses to be 'very clear' or 'clear', which may reflect the above comments. However, experiences of academic competences are overall rated positively (87% 'completely agree' or 'agree'); regarding experiences of the ability to identify and formulate problems the same percentage was 93%; and regarding the ability to organize a long work process and achieve set goals on time it was 90%.

In the individual comments, students mention intercultural competences, creative and critical thinking, analytical skills, teamwork, project coordination and management as some of the main competences. The university's career counselling is rated as medium or good by 67% of the respondents, which is better than earlier years, but this is also something that is still developing and hopefully improving as more and more experience is gained.