Decision Regarding the Assessment of the Informatics and Information Technology Study Programme Group

Tallinn University of Technology

21/02/2013

The Quality Assessment Council of the Estonian Higher Education Quality Agency decided to approve the assessment report by the Assessment Committee and to conduct the next quality assessment of the Informatics and Information Technology study programme group in the first and second cycles of higher education at the Tallinn University of Technology in seven years.

Assessment Committee

Manfred Nagl – Chair	Aachen University (Germany)
Viljar Mee	Student member (Estonia)
Liz Bacon (Elisabeth Kabler)	The University of Greenwich (UK)
Virgo Inno	Tieto Eesti AS (Estonia)
Laszlo Keviczky	Budapest University of Technology and Economics (Hungary)
Andres Kütt	Webmedia, MIT (Estonia)
Ernst W. Mayr	Technical University of Munich (Germany)
Ignas Niemegeers	Delft University of Technology (The Netherlands)
Rain Rebane	Elion Ettevõtted AS (Estonia)

The Committee's observations on the study programme group level

Strengths:

- *There is good cooperation between the University and outside enterprises.*

- *Infrastructure for the study programme group satisfies the current needs.*

Areas for improvement and recommendations:

- *The Assessment Committee did not find enough examples of close cooperation among different institutes and specialty areas of the faculty. Collaboration with other faculties of the University should be strengthened. It is also necessary to optimise both substantive and organisational cooperation between the Tallinn University of Technology and the University of Tartu in implementing their joint study programmes (Cyber Security, Software Engineering).*

- *Cooperation between the University and outside enterprises should be better exploited to develop the content of study programmes, improve the quality of teaching and reduce student outside employment while studying, among other things.*

- *The required student workload regarding their academic activities and independent work is considerably lower than seen in international practice. The University should definitely raise the level of those standards to ensure a sustainable international competitiveness of its graduates.*

- *Assessment criteria and requirements for course completion vary significantly. It is possible to complete courses and pass final papers on a level that is significantly lower than international standards.*

- *The study programmes do not leave enough time for students' practical work (seminars, workshops, training sessions, etc.). It is necessary to find a better balance between theory and practice.*

- *The University should find a solution for developing its study programmes so that they would better consider both the present and the future needs of the economy.*

- *The objectives and content of study programmes within the study programme group and their relevance to the needs of the economy are not easily understood by the Committee, students, University employees or employers. The University should clearly identify the profiles of study programmes, so that their content, outputs and potential jobs would be clearly understood by all target groups, including international students.*

- *The focus of study programmes on practical, theoretical or research oriented studies is not fully developed; the orientation of study programmes is not clear to prospective students. Therefore, the content of study programmes does not satisfy the expectations of many students.*

- *The Tallinn University of Technology should consider increasing software-related focus in its study programmes because it is in high demand and it is necessary for implementing the Estonian ICT and e-government strategies.*

- *Student involvement in development of study programmes is not sufficient. The involvement of the best students in study programme development should be increased.*

- *Performance of the student feedback system is weak.*

- *One of the biggest problems is the high student dropout rate (over 60%) and the University should deliberately and systematically deal with it across all observed study programmes.*

- *E-learning should be used more widely and systematically, an e-learning strategy needs to be developed.*

- *Student international mobility should be increased. Vigorous development of internationalisation and foreign relations is critical and essential. More high-level international research partners are necessary.*

- *The number of lectures in English as well as the use of textbooks in English should be significantly increased.*

Further information:

[Assessment Report](#)