

Accreditation Report

Internal audit procedure within the framework of system accreditation
Study Programme: Erasmus Mundus Joint Master „International Law of Global Security, Peace and Development” (LL.M.)
Date of the accreditation report: 06 September 2021

Leuphana University Lüneburg has been system accredited since 2014 and conducts the accreditation of its study programmes under its own responsibility. With the award of the Quality Seal, Leuphana confirms that a study programme meets the criteria of the Lower Saxony Study Accreditation Ordinance (Nds. StudAkkVO) and that this has been verified in a procedure by external experts (programme advisory board). In accordance with the guidelines for quality reports (Drs. AR 85/2019), the accreditation report includes the audit process, a short profile of the programme, the names of the experts, the evaluation of the programme by the programme board and the agreed measures for the further development of the programme.

The Internal Audit Procedure is coordinated by the staff unit Quality Development (Team Q). Usually it replaces the external programme accreditation of study programmes and is regulated in the [QE-guideline](#) (Guideline of the Presidential Board on Quality Development of Studies and Teaching – available in German only).

A) Process of the Internal Audit Procedure

Kick-off Meeting

In a **kick-off meeting**, study programme directors, representatives of the School, the Dean's Office and Team Q clarify the procedure and responsibilities in the process and schedule important milestones in a written agreement.

Documentation

The so-called programme folder documents all essential information on the study programme. For the following evaluation process, the programme directors describe the profile, the learning outcomes, the curriculum and the resources used analogous to the audit mandate of the programme advisory board.

Evaluation

Leuphana University Lüneburg sets up independent **programme advisory boards** for all study programmes, partial study programmes and overarching study programme elements. In the case of teaching training-related study programmes, the Lower Saxony Ministry of Cultural Affairs and the regional church for the subject Protestant Religion are included. The programme advisory board evaluates compliance with the subject-related criteria for study programmes of the Nds. StudAkkVO1 (§§ 11 to 16 as well as 19 to 20). For this purpose, the advisory board receives the programme folder and conducts discussions with programme directors and students. In its meeting, the programme advisory board evaluates the study programme and submits a written statement. In an **audit report**, Team Q combines this evaluation of the programme advisory board with the evaluation of the formal accreditation criteria according to the Nds. StudAkkVO1 (§§ 3 to 10) and prepares a consultation template for the development agreement.

Development Agreement

For the development discussion, the programme directors propose measures through which the requirements of the external programme advisory board can be implemented. These proposals are examined and, if necessary, modified in an internal university **development discussion**. Comparable to an "internal accreditation commission", it is here determined which of the criticisms and recommendations are to be rectified or implemented by when and by whom. The results are usually confirmed by consensus of all members entitled to vote and documented in a development agreement. If an agreement is not possible, defined escalation levels

[Quality Development Department | Team Q](#)

Dokumentenname	Version	Stand	Ansprechpartner*in
210906_ Accreditation Report Master ILGSPD (LL.M.)	V05.5	02 September 2022	Andreas Soltau



take effect. In the case of teaching training-related study programmes, the Lower Saxony Ministry of Cultural Affairs and the regional church for the subject Protestant Religion are included in this step of the process.

Awarding of the Leuphana Quality Seal and Monitoring

Once the development agreement has been signed by all members of the development meeting entitled to vote, a written confirmation of the accreditation decision by the Lower Saxony Ministry of Cultural Affairs follows for the teaching training-related study programmes. Subsequently, the Presidential Board awards the **Leuphana Quality Seal** for Studies and Teaching. Team Q is responsible for **monitoring** the implementation of measures, and the final decision is made by the Executive Board.

¹Niedersächsische Verordnung zur Regelung des Näheren der Studienakkreditierung (Niedersächsische Studienakkreditierungsverordnung — Nds. StudAkkVO) vom 30. Juli 2019, Nds. GVBl. Nr. 13/2019, ausgegeben am 09.08.2019.

B) Results of the Internal Audit Procedure of the „International Law of Global Security, Peace and Development” (LL.M.)

<p>Profile of the study programme</p>	<p>The Erasmus Mundus Joint Master International Law of Global Security, Peace and Development was developed in cooperation with the University of Glasgow, the partner universities and a global network of 27 associate partners. The innovative and multidisciplinary programme addresses students interested in international law, politics and international relations. By placing international law in its political context, the programme prepares future generations of lawyers and policy makers for their contribution to global security, peace and development.</p> <p>This two-year Master draws upon the expertise of consortium partners (University of Glasgow, Institut Barcelona d'Estudis Internacionals, University of Tartu, Leuphana University Lüneburg, Radboud University and the Université libre de Bruxelles) in specialist areas including International Peace and Security Law, International Humanitarian Law, International Human Rights Law, International Criminal Law, International Economic Law, International Environmental Law, Migration Law, European Law, UN Law, as well as broader factors, causes and solutions for development and sustainability. The programme is conducted at at least three different universities. Students complete the first semester in Glasgow and spend the second semester in Barcelona. In semester 3 they further deepen their knowledge in the area of their pathway specialisation determined by the university of semester 3 (University of Tartu, Leuphana University Lüneburg, Radboud University or the Université libre de Bruxelles). In the fourth semester, students write their master's thesis at Glasgow, Barcelona or at the university where they spent their third semester. Build on this comprehensive understanding of the interaction of the different areas, Leuphana's study track offers specialisation in the fields of International Economics, Sustainability and Governance. The track offers an in-depth analysis of factors and preconditions in the areas of International Economic Law and Policy, Sustainability Science and Governance Research building towards a comprehensive understanding for Sustainable Development. Upon completion of the programme, including the international mobility phases at the University of Glasgow, Institut Barcelona d'Estudis Internacionals (IBEI) and a master thesis, the Leuphana University Lüneburg, students will receive an Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degree. All ILGSPD students will additionally receive a Master's in International Security from IBEI.</p> <p>Information about the study programme can be found here:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Leuphana Internet• Consortium Website• Hochschulkompass• Database of the German Accreditation Council (available in German only)
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	Embedding in Leuphana University Lüneburg: Faculty: Faculty of Business and Economics School: Graduate School
Reason of the Quality Evaluation	First Accreditation for the Master „International Law of Global Security, Peace and Development“ (LL.M.)
Timing of the procedure	Date of the kick-off meeting 09 September 2020 Programme folder (Self documentation) 15 March 2021 Date of the Advisory board meeting 26 March 2021 Date of the Development Discussion 20 July 2021 Awarding of the Quality Seal 06 September 2021
Composition of the expert group (programme advisory board)	Science and Research: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prof. Dr. Karsten Nowrot, LL.M., Professor of Public Economic Law with a focus on European and International Economic Law, University of Hamburg• Prof. Dr. Marc Bungenberg, LL.M., Professor of Public Law, International and European Law and Director of the Europa-Institut, Saarland University Professional Practice: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Anna Hankings-Evans, Attorney at Law, Alexander & Partner Rechtsanwälte mbH, Berlin Student Representative: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Katharina Sophie Zimmer, Student of International Relations (M.A.) / Focus: International Order and Institutions (International Law), TU Dresden
Legal basis of the evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• State Treaty on the Accreditation of Studies• Nds. StudAkkVO Part 2 and Part 3
Content basis of the evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Self-Report including appendix• Conversations of the programme advisory board with following people/groups:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Programme Director and deputy Programme Director○ Lecturers (from Leuphana University and the University of Glasgow)
Results of the Evaluation	<p>All in all, the members of the Advisory board approve the study programme. They assess the profile of the study programme as coherent and the qualification goals for a Master's programme as appropriate in terms of level and content. The objectives and learning outcomes correspond to both professional and scientific standards.</p> <p>The programme advisory board notes, however, that the name of the study programme, especially the peace and security aspects, have triggered other associations, suggesting a focus of the study programme on international security policy. The programme advisory board therefore recommends the inclusion of sustainable development in the title of the programme.</p> <p>According to the advisory board, the sequel of the modules basically follows a sensible structure. However, the programme advisory board believes it is premature to decide on one of the specializations prior to the start of the programme. Ideally, the selection should not be made until November, which is however, according to the selection process for the different pathways difficult to implement. In addition, it should be made possible to exchange places at the beginning of the study programme.</p>



	<p>With regard to the curriculum, the programme advisory board continues to critically note that only modules already existing [at Leuphana] are imported into the Master's programme. The Board is concerned that such imported modules will not specifically address ILGSPD students. In addition, the programme advisory board points out that critical approaches (Global South Perspectives, Postcolonial, Gender) are not sufficiently represented in the curriculum. As a final point regarding the structure of the curriculum, the programme advisory board suggests that more comprehensive scientific methodological training should be offered for the path to a doctorate.</p> <p>The programme advisory board points out two aspects that it considers important with regard to access to the programme. For admission to the pathway specialisation offered by Leuphana, 50% of the CP in legal modules must be proven. This requirement excludes a large percentage of students who already have a strong interdisciplinary perspective. Furthermore, the requirements for the awarding of ILGSPD Erasmus Mundus scholarships are viewed critically by the programme advisory board. The programme advisory board considers it crucial that the financial situation of the applicants must be examined.</p> <p>The Master's programme provides graduates with a good level of professional skills. In this context, however, the programme advisory board notes that it believes it is essential to make it transparent to students that the choice of elective modules prepares them for different career paths in addition to their subject-specific orientation.</p> <p>All in all, the programme advisory board confirms that the resources allocated to the programme at Leuphana (positions, denominations, rooms & equipment) allow for an adequate implementation of the curriculum. In addition to the existing modules, however, students should also receive individual support, for example in the form of monthly meetings to accompany them in their research work or to exchange ideas on content, and group cohesion should be promoted. Due to the semester-long change of the place of study, there should also be comprehensive support for the students in the areas of accommodation, study end counselling, etc. In particular, the programme advisory board recommends a support event (e.g. tutorial) for the preparation and supervision of final theses.</p>
Measures for further development	<p>Based on the above-mentioned evaluation of the programme advisory board, the following measures were decided on within the framework of the internal university development discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- (1) The programme managers will develop proposals for a new programme title based on the recommendations of the programme advisory board and will initiate a preliminary consultation with the consortium partners from March 2022.- (2) The indication of a 1st and 2nd wish for specialization before the start of the self-funded studies as well as the exchange of study tracks between students will be discussed with the consortium partners and the result will be reported in the monitoring process.- (3) In the module description of the Leuphana course "International Sustainable Development Law" the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) will be included – which have a specific gender perspective.- (4) The programme directors check whether and which modules with a methodological focus can be included in the curriculum as part of the electives.- (5) An overall guideline for the study stay at Leuphana will be developed for the students. These guidelines explicitly address the choice of electives and the resulting different professional orientations.- (6) A concept for a specific mentoring programme for Master ILGSPD students will be developed, addressing the comments of the programme advisory board.- (7) The subject-specific annex will be published in the Leuphana-Gazette prior to the start of the programme for winter term 21/22.



	<p>- (8) The Institut Barcelona d'Estudis Internacionals will be asked to make appropriate additions to the module descriptions and these will be submitted subsequently as part of the monitoring process.</p>
Decision on the Awarding of the Quality Seal of Leuphana	<p>With its decision of 06 September 2021, the Presidential Board awards the Master „International Law of Global Security, Peace and Development“ (LL.M.) the Quality Seal for Studies and Teaching for study programmes at Leuphana University Lüneburg. It thus confirms that this study programme meets the criteria of the Nds. StudAkkVO (Part 2 and Part 3) and that this has been verified in a procedure by external experts. The prerequisite for the specified period of validity of the Quality Seal is the signing of the cooperation agreement and the timely implementation of the measures stipulated in the development agreement. The monitoring of the measures is carried out by Leuphana Quality Management.</p>
Measure implementation	<p>Fulfilled according to Presidium resolution of 31 August 2022.</p>
Validity of the Quality Seal	<p>8 years – Duration from 01 October 2021 – 30 September 2029</p>