

ENGLISH VERSION

Discussion note for Program Council meeting in Human Geography 12 October 2022:

Follow-up of periodic programme evaluation of bachelor's and master's programmes in Human Geography

The Programme Council on Human Geography opened the discussion on the PPE report at its meeting on 7 September. The Faculty of Social Sciences has asked the programme to develop a plan (outline) for how the programmes wish to follow up the proposals made in the report.

The tables below lists the challenges identified by the evaluation and suggestions for follow-up. This discussion note forms the basis for discussion atn the programme council and should also be seen in the context of the planned revision of the master's programme.

One point that requires special attention is the specializations in the master's program (Master's program, point 2). If there is agreement in the programme council to move away from thematic specialisations as early as autumn 2023, an extraordinary programme council meeting will be convened shortly after, as the change requires a decision by 20 October 2022 (due to the faculty's deadline).

Bachelor programme - SGO

	Challenge	Suggested follow-up
1	Specialization courses at both 2000 and 3000 level: Requirement for certain number of courses at different levels removed, unnecessarily fine-grained academic specialization?	Consider turning SGO3200 and SGO3500 into 2000 topics. + allows revision of content, new twist, renew topic portfolio ÷ loses academic specialization in environmental and urban geography.
2	Qualitative method almost absent.	Intro in qualitative method is built into SGO1004. SVMET1010 Qualitative methods are traced back in SGO specialization.
3	Academic tradition and history not included in the program's learning objectives.	Knowledge about the history, traditions, distinctive character and place in society of the subject area is included in knowledge goals.
4	Challenging to get an overview/info about exchange opportunities.	Better info about exchanges for students, including an annual cycle for info-work for ISS students.
5	Uneven participation and activity at sgeo associations (Terra, GIS club, Samfunnsgeografen)	Prog and ISS continue to support sgeo associations.
6	Varying degrees of interest among science staff in developing their own teaching.	Use more incentives to motivate educational development among employees. Establish collegial arenas for the development and peer review of teaching. common digital areas for sharing teaching resources, including examples of forms of assessment, support materials for seminar teaching, etc.
7	The number of applicants has room for improvement.	ISS strengthens its recruitment strategy from the moment. H22 (targeted initiatives, alumni events).
8	UiO will educate candidates who are sought after in the labour market.	Can be further strengthened with a greater focus on understanding competence and "putting words to what you really know" throughout the entire course of study. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is done by SV-fak Finn-din-vei, but can also be communicated on SGO3090. • Draw the connection between different courses explicitly throughout the course of study, both via web-info and in teaching.

Master's programme – HGO

	Challenge	Suggested follow-up
1	Clearer professional profile on sustainability, such as SGO.	Greater emphasis on the role, position and relevance of human geography in sustainability issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In program description • Possibly a bit more on HGO4011
2	Four specializations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • taken only by about 50% of students • specific topic combination can be challenging • according to the committee, "has less impact on job search and career opportunities outside academia". 	Remove thematic specialisations from the master's programme from H23 onwards. + more flexibility, for both students and staff + "students are freer to choose among the courses offered when appropriate for the individual's course of study." + easier to customize course offerings with available staff ÷ a bit difficult to communicate/promote the program's content externally?
3	Students who want to go on exchange are recommended to take a 30-ECTS master's thesis	Facilitate better to enable exchange and 60sp master's thesis, by e.g. carrying out exchange in the 2nd semester.
4	"Internationalisation and research careers in tension with the need to safeguard Norwegian professional language and educate candidates for a labour market that is largely Norwegian-speaking."	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HGO offers guidance in both Norwegian and English. • The practice of being able to answer exams in both Norwegian and English will be continued.
5	The number of applicants is good, but should be seen in the context of SGO, in a longer perspective.	ISS strengthens its recruitment strategy from H22
6	Relevance to working life	Educators more aware of highlighting, and showing examples of, the relevance of working life in the individual subjects when relevant.
7	Desirable with field visits / courses, which included all students on the program.	Could a field visit/excursion be developed in the framework of HGO4011 or HGO4010? + advantageous in terms of learning environment, relevance to working life and academic outcomes ÷ resource-intensive

The resource situation in human geography programmes (SGO and HGO)

	Challenge	Suggested follow-up
1	<p>Not a sustainable approach to resource situation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High number of overtime hours among permanent staff. • Both SGO and HGO have relatively many options. • Many subjects covering the staff's research field. 	<p>SGO: Strengthen collaboration with other programs and approve more courses at ISS, especially SOS and UTV.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include SVMET1010 Qualitative methods. • Consider inclusion in the SGO specialization: SOSGEO Introduction in Demography, SOS2200 Organization, Leadership and Work, UTV2000 Development Theory. <p>SGO: Reduce the number of subjects, different fields of study can be treated within the same subject.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revise SGO3200 and SGO3500 to cover more sgeo disciplines. <p>HGO: Strengthen cooperation with other units and approve more courses outside HGO (especially SOS and SUM, up to 20sp)</p> <p>HGO: Reduce the number of subjects, different fields of study can be treated within the same subject.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Go from 2 to 1 theory course in economic geography/environmental geography/urban geography? • HGO4203 Sustainable urban transformations becomes HGO4012: Sustainable transformations, is opened to all students (not earmarked for specializations) and runs annually in the spring semester. • Assess HGO4501 in terms of better integration of Global South issues into other HGO topics. <p>+ Reduce resource needs related to teaching and grading. By channeling more resources into fewer courses, one can achieve higher quality teaching and assessment activities, instead of "using cheese slicer" on many courses.</p>