

Summary of the student evaluation autumn 2018

About the evaluation

The autumn student evaluation was conducted in weeks 43 and 44 at bachelor and master's level.

In accordance with previous semesters, the evaluation was structured so that the students would answer questions about courses they had taken in the current semester. In addition, the department's programme students were asked to answer questions related to the study programme as a whole.

The evaluation was sent by e-mail to 478 of our active programme students, including 291 students at bachelor's level and 187 students at master's level. 274 students answered the evaluation, of which 161 were at bachelor level while 113 were at the master's level. This represents a total response rate of 57.32. See table 1 for details.

Information and a link to the evaluation were also posted on the Department's programme pages. In selected lectures, time was set aside to give the students an opportunity to respond.

Table 1: Respondents by study level, number and percentage.

	Bachelor's level	Master's level	Total
Possible respondents (numbers)	291	187	478
Actual respondents (numbers)	161	113	274
Percentage	55,33	60,43	57,32

About the study programme as a whole

The department's programme students answered questions about the programme as a whole (results are shown in Table 2). The number of respondents in Table 2 differs from the number of respondents in Table 1. The deviation is due to the fact that some respondents were not programme students at the Department. Consequently, they did not receive questions about the programme as a whole.

Table 2: Average, scale 1-5.

**Do you find the programme interesting? (1 is not interesting, 5 is very interesting)*

***What is your assessment of the difficulty of the programme? (1 is very easy; 3 is adequate; 5 is very difficult)*

****What is your assessment of the overall learning outcome of the programme? (1 is very bad, 5 is very good)*

******What is your assessment of the student community? (1 is very bad, 5 is very good)*

	Number of respondents	Interesting programme *	Level of difficulty **	Learning outcome ***	Student community ****
Bachelor's level	116	4,12	3,80	3,91	3,71
Master's level	115	3,73	4,03	3,65	3,68

Bachelor's level

On average, the findings show that the students find the study programme “above average interesting”, yet more demanding than they consider appropriate. Students state that they are very satisfied with the learning outcomes of the courses and perceive the student environment as good. They report spending an average of 26.41 hours studying during the week prior to the evaluation (including lectures, seminars, self-study, etc.). Many students report that they were not prepared for the amount, pace and level of understanding required in mathematics - especially in early courses of the study programme.

There is a desire for more seminars in each course, as well as more contact with lecturers. Students want to have lectures recorded (as a tool to repeat the curriculum). In addition, the students call for more training in writing assignments (e.g. more written submissions/writing exercises), as well as more assignments on cases that reflect real life situations (applications of theory). The students further report that they want more opportunities to take courses on finance, informatics and computer programming.

About 60% of the students state that they plan to complete the bachelor's degree and apply for the master's degree in economics at UiO. The remaining students report that they wish to complete their bachelor's degree, but have doubts about what to pursue next. A master's degree abroad or at a different Norwegian institution are frequently mentioned. Only 9 students consider leaving the programme.

Master's level

The students report that they spent an average of 35.21 hours studying during the week prior to the evaluation (including lectures, seminars, self-study, etc.). The general opinion is that the master's programme is interesting and relevant/useful, but very demanding. The students view both the learning outcome and the student environment favorably.

The first semester of the two-year master's degree (Economics) is particularly demanding and heavily reliant on theory. Some think that the high level of difficulty takes away from the learning outcome. Many students agree that the course combination ECON4120, ECON4200 and ECON4310 should be coordinated differently due to the fact that some assignments have learning prerequisites that are required later in the semester. The students also mention that the exam dates are too close together and arrive too soon in the autumn semester 2018.

The students enrolled in the master programmes agree with the bachelor's degree students in wishing that more attention is paid to applications of models and theory (e.g. through the use of assignments and discussions). Students want to develop a sense of “economic intuition” through group discussions/more interactive lectures and more access to previous exams/assignments with

solution proposals.

The students are confused by the variance when it comes to where course related information is published. Some lecturers use Canvas, some use the course semester page. The students also call out for more and higher quality teaching. They request more seminars, group assignments, workshops and formal training in writing essays.