



Experimental stage, previous to the Official Call

Final report on the accreditation renewal of Doctoral Programme in Maritime History and Archaeology at University of Cádiz

1. DEGREE DETAILS

ID Ministry	5600782
Degree Denomination	Doctoral Programme in Maritime History and Archaeology Universidad de Cádiz
University	Universidad de Cádiz
Centre	International Doctoral School in Marine Studies (EIDEMAR)

2. NORMATIVE SCOPE

This process is conducted in accordance with the international quality standards, the article 27 of Royal Decree October, 29, which establishes the normative regulating official university education and according the criteria set up in the Guide for accreditation renewal of Andalusian university degrees Bachelor and Master, by the Andalusian Knowledge Agency Direction for Accreditation and Evaluation, December, 2014.

The Andalusian Knowledge Agency, in accordance with the regulations established by the Andalusian Law for Science and Knowledge, 16/2007, December, 3, is assigned the competences for the university activities evaluation and accreditation.

The renewal Commission for the accreditation designated by the Andalusian Knowledge Agency Direction for Accreditation and Evaluation, has been assigned the competences for the evaluation of the applications once the universities proposal is submitted for the accreditation renewal of the Andalusian official degrees. This report is issued by the aforementioned commission of experts who act within an independent and autonomous system.

Taking into account it is an experimental stage previous to the official call, this report will be signed, validated and submitted to the competent Ministry and the Regional Ministry within the framework of the next official call for the Doctoral Programmes Accreditation Renewal, notwithstanding the request of new documentation.

3. EVALUATION CONTENT

The Commission has conducted the following assessment report:

-First: It is certified and verified the standards compliance as established by the Guide for the accreditation renewal of Doctoral Programmes in Andalusia, by the Andalusian Knowledge Agency Direction for Accreditation and Evaluation, June, 2017.

-Second: Recommendations and special follow-up recommendations are made, including an enhancement plan which will be checked through the follow-up period.

-Third: The modifications pointed out in the provisional report that remain unresolved are specified as motivating, where applicable, an unfavourable report.

3.0 INTRODUCTION

The Commission for Accreditation Renewal in light of the self-assessment accreditation report submitted by the university applicant for its assessment, the evidences presented by the applicant University and the explanations and answers from the personnel present in the accreditation visit, issued the Provisional Report for accreditation renewal including modifications and recommendations concerning several criteria. Reported the statements on time by the University, the Commission for accreditation renewal has analysed such statements and issues this Final evaluation report.

3.1 AVAILABLE PUBLIC INFORMATION

Partially achieved

The University of Cádiz publishes and updates on the institutional website (<http://www.uca.es>) the appropriate contents to all the stakeholders addressed: students, teaching staff, administration and services, visits and enterprises.

UCA has updated the Doctoral School EIDEMAR webpage providing essential information on the PG.

The University of Cádiz Doctoral Programme in Maritime History and Archaeology Cádiz has updated its website following the remarks made in the accreditation report. Now the Information such as the Programme teachers' CV, Programme activities and activities within the agreements framework, or general indicators is made public.

The research projects of every research lines are not still available in the public area.

According to the allegation, this information will be shortly available on the Doctoral School EIDEMAR webpage, when all the research projects, research teaching staff (PDI) contracts and archaeological activities will be soon available in the public area on the University of Cádiz Doctoral School EIDEMAR webpage. However, it is advisable that these data were also available on the Doctoral Programme website, or at least a direct link between these two pages so that public information remained linked with a click.

On the Doctoral School EIDEMAR website the Doctoral activities programmes are listed, and it is stated that there will be a direct link to all the School Doctoral activities, within the Doctorate drop-down list, on the EIDEMAR webpage.

Despite the the actions for enhancement proposed in the allegations to follow these recommendations are favourably valued, they are still considered as recommendations till they were completely resolved.

Recommendations:

- It is recommended enhancing the public area information, by focusing on indicators that are currently just in the private area and without general public open access.
- It is recommended improving accessibility on the website to teachers' details (*curriculum*, six-year terms, research projects assigned), providing the information for every line of research.
- It is recommended describing the totality of the research projects, research contracts, and current PDI archaeological activities for every line of research.
- It is recommended making accessible the training activities such as the Doctoral sessions, where doctoral candidates present their research work.

3.2 INTERNAL QUALITY ASSURANCE SYSTEM

It is achieved

The University of Cádiz has an specific Quality Assurance System for Doctoral Programmes, approved in 2013. The Quality Management System has a documentary manager to support the Quality Management System.

The evidences provided indicating there have been followed the improvements proposed through the different follow-up reports. The Degree has an enhancement Plan based on the indicators outcomes analysis and the revisions carried out from the Quality Assurance System.

However, the doctoral programme stakeholders participation rate in the different surveys, managers, faculty and students, is currently improvable, and the outcomes still reflect a partial information.

In the future, an awareness campaign will be launched among the different stakeholders, which is something with reasonable viability.

Despite the the actions for enhancement proposed in the allegations to follow these recommendations are favourably valued, they are still considered as recommendations till they were completely resolved.

Recommendations:

- It is recommended improving the participation rate of all the doctoral programme stakeholders in the satisfaction surveys.

3.3 EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMME DESIGN, ORGANISATION AND DEVELOPMENT

It is achieved

According to the available evidences, the competences correspond to the levels required for the students training enroled in a doctoral programme. The development of the Plan of Studies corresponds to the verified reportr and it is appropriate to the Doctoral Programme educational purpose. No significant changes produced.

The educational activities are appropriate to reach a solid training by the enroled students in the Doctoral Programme, providing clear contents, monitor systems and evaluation criteria, as well as the necessity for mobility in any case.

3.4. TEACHING STAFF

It is achieved

The teaching staff meets compliance requirements for their participation in the Doctoral Programme, with a long and wide accredited experience. The faculty six-year terms correspond to 100%. It is also a significant indicator the rate of their participation in active research projects in public calls for competitive concurrence, which is of 28, 57 %, rate which would increase significantly if data related to other calls were included, such as public calls for research projects and general archaeological activities, archival studies granted by the city council, the provincial governement and by other public or private entities.

The teaching staff high internationalisation level might be reinforced through complementary a, such as their participation in competitive calls for mobility actions, the development of a specific encouraging plan for thesis co-tutoring, which would could improve Doctorate students' performance.

Additionally, there is a high number of prestigious national and international external collaborators, which enriches the Doctoral students training and all the lines of research.

A specific plan is going to be developed for the promotion of the different outgoing mobility options through the University of Cádiz Research and Transfer Plan and the General Direction for International Relations. Its viability is reasonable.

There is a general plan for the University of Cádiz Doctoral Schools for the promotion of co-tutoring thesis, which finances our students' stay at universities abroad for a period longer than six months , but the allegation includes a specifinc encouraging Plan, designed and implemented by the Doctoral Schools Direction EDUCA and EIDEMAR of the University of Cádiz, and its legal implemntation is included in the allegation in detail: the instruction UCA/I01VP/2018, May, 25, 2018, by the Vice Rector for Planning at the University of Cádiz, by which the Regulation UCA/CG06/2012, June, 27, 2012, is developed, regulating Doctoral Studies atthe University of Cádiz, concernig the development of Doctoral co-tutoring thesis. It has been published in the University of Cádiz Official Gazette number 254 (BOUCA), May 30, 2018. Its viability is reasonable.

Despite the improvement actions proposed in the allegations in order to follow these recommendations are favourably valued, they are still considered as recommendations till they were completely resolved.

Recommendations:

- It is recommended developing an outgoing mobility Plan for teaching staff.
- It is recommended developing a Plan for encouraging co-tutoring thesis.

3.5 INFRASTRUCTURES, SERVICES AND RESOURCES ALLOCATION

It is achieved

The Doctoral Programme is ascribed to the International Doctoral School of Maritime Studies (EIDEMAR), which has modern and renovated facilities and it was awarded the European Seal of Excellence 400+. There are two specialised libraries for Doctorate students

It has been verified that the University of Cádiz has realised a significant effort to develop an administrative support platform to resolve everyday administrative problems, however, the resolution of daily administrative tasks through such platform is carried out by part of PAIDI, taking some of their time for research tasks. A new commission formed by members from EIDEMAR Direction Council, Doctoral Programme researchers and PAS, with the objective of enhancing the organisation and administrative tasks distribution amongst diverse stakeholders. The viability of such resolution procedure is reasonable.

Despite the improvement actions proposed in the allegations in order to follow these recommendations are favourably valued, they are still considered as recommendations till they were completely resolved.

Recommendations:

- It is recommended enhancing the organisation and administrative tasks distribution carried out the administrative support platform launched by UCA.

3.6 PROGRAMME OUTCOMES

It is achieved

The Doctoral theses defended have achieved the Programme objectives, and they were awarded the international mention and summa cum laude.

Although the success rate after 4 years is maintained within the margins established by the indicator objective (20% for year 2016/17), higher than the data offered by the centre (6, 98%) and by the University (6, 21%), it has been verified that withdrawal rate decreased from 25% in 2015/16 to 15% in 2016/17, as it was conveniently justified in the allegations, therefore it is lower than the expected indicator: (30%).

It is however a task to be performed by the Doctoral Programme direction and teachers to establish an appropriate framework for reflection so that doctoral thesis duration is adapted if possibly to the expected framework of time established by the normative in

force, over the extension tendency of thesis of humanities which are usually longer than that time framework. On the other hand, it was verified a high withdrawal rate during the programme first years, which might be related to the fact that the research contracts offer decreased. It was also verified that a high number of students are just enrolled the first year, which would be a reason for reflection and analysis. Despite it is considered a conveniently achieved objective, as accredited by the PG Academic Commission minutes, however, given the importance of the paradigm shift in planning and time for writing the doctoral thesis, it is an issue worthy to take into account in a continuous follow-up and a procedure for active reflection.

Despite the improvement actions proposed in the allegations in order to follow these recommendations are favourably valued, they are still considered as recommendations till they were completely resolved.

Recommendations:

- It is recommended a continuous process for reflection which allowed that the time for doctoral thesis writing is adapted to the temporal framework established in the applicable normative.

3.7 INDICATORS

It is achieved

The indicators evolution is consistent with the verified report. From the analysis of research teaching staff and students' satisfaction levels it is verified that the levels are increasing. It is verified an increase in the students' participation in mobility programmes, as well as a high percentage of students coming from other universities.

4. CONCLUSIONS

Taking into account the self-assessment report for accreditation renewal, the evidences analysed, the audiences during the visit to the University, and, once the allegations deadline is over, the Commission for accreditation renewal analysed the allegations and issues this final evaluation report.

Recommendations / recommendations for special follow-up related to criteria

1. AVAILABLE PUBLIC INFORMATION:

Recommendations:

- It is recommended enhancing the information available in the public area, by shifting indicators that are currently in the private area and are not accessible by general public.
- It is recommended improving of information accessibility to teachers' details on the website (*curriculum*, six-year terms, research projects assigned), including the information for lines of research.



- It is recommended describing the totality of research projects and contracts, teaching and research academic staff (PDI) active archaeological activities for every line of research.
- It is recommended making visible all the training activities and the Doctoral sessions as well, in which doctorate students present their research works.

2. INTERNAL QUALITY ASSURANCE SYSTEM:

Recommendations:

- It is recommended improving the Doctoral Programme stakeholders' participation rate in satisfaction surveys.

4. TEACHING STAFF:

Recommendations:

- It is recommended developing an outbound mobility Plan for teaching staff.
- It is recommended developing a Plan encouraging co-tutoring thesis.

5. INFRASTRUCTURES, SERVICES AND RESOURCES ALLOCATION

Recommendations:

- It is recommended enhancing administrative tasks organisation and distribution through the platform launched by UCA providing administrative support.

6. PROGRAMME OUTCOMES

Recommendations:

- It is recommended that the reflection process continued and allowed that the time for Doctoral theses writing is adapted to the temporal framework established in the applicable normative.

The Accreditation Renewal Commission resolves the issue of a FAVOURABLE report.