



Final Report on Accreditation Renewal for Bachelor Degree in Physical Activity and Sport Sciences at University of Almería

1. DEGREE DETAILS

ID Ministry	2502724
Degree Denomination	Bachelor Degree in Physical Activity and Sport Sciences
University	
Centre	Faculty of Education Sciences
University Participant	
Field of Knowledge	Social Sciences and Education

2. NORMATIVE SCOPE

Accreditation renewal is conducted in accordance with the procedure established in art. 27. *bis* of Royal Decree 1393/2007, October, 29, which regulates official university education. Evaluation has been conducted according to the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG) included in the Guide for Accreditation Renewal for Bachelor and Master Degrees issued by the Andalusian Knowledge Agency Direction for Accreditation and Evaluation.

The Andalusian Knowledge Agency, in accordance with the provisions in Law 16/2007, December, 3, has been assigned competences for university activities evaluation and accreditation.

The Accreditation Renewal Commission, appointed by the Andalusian Knowledge Agency Direction for Evaluation and Accreditation has the competencies for evaluating the accreditation renewal of official degrees submitted by the University. This report was issued by the aforementioned Commission formed by experts acting in a regime of independence and autonomy.

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3. EVALUATION CONTENT

In this report the Commission issues the following valuation:

- First: It is certified and **verified** compliance with the standards in accordance with the provisions in the Guide for Accreditation Renewal for University Bachelor and Master Degrees in Andalusia, issued by the Andalusian Knowledge Agency Direction for Evaluation and Accreditation, December 2014.
- Second: Recommendations and special follow-up recommendations are provided, including an improvement plan which will be the object of the follow-up.
- Third: Unresolved **Modifications** included in the provisional report are specified, which motivates and unfavourable report.

MOTIVATION

3.0 INTRODUCTION

The Accreditation Renewal Commission has examined and evaluated the documentation required for the procedure of accreditation renewal of Bachelor Degree in Physical Activity and Sport Sciences provided by the University of Almería. Taking into account the self-assessment report, the documentary evidence provided, as well as the observations, explanations, and answers given in the audiences during the visit payed by the Accreditation Renewal Commission, a provisional report was issued including modifications and recommendations concerning several standards. Once the allegations submitted by the University of Almería were analysed and evaluated, the Accreditation Renewal Commission issued this final report. The Accreditation Renewal Commission analysis and evaluations concerning the criteria considered for the accreditation renewal procedure are included in this report.

3.1. AVAILABLE PUBLIC INFORMATION

It is partially achieved

There is a website for the Bachelor Degree in Physical Activity and Sport Sciences providing students with information concerning teaching staff, potential students, the Degree characteristics and its development or outcomes. Its design facilitates access to information, although some documents are located in unappropriate sections (for example, the Verification Report, placed in the section "More information"). It is positively valued that all the information is made publicly accessible.

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The information for potential students is complete regarding admission and access rules, referring to the special pages for specific information in each modality.

Useful information for students is provided on mobility, timetables, educational guides, normative, etc. There is a link to the Quality Assurance System (SGC) with most relevant information on quality, main outcomes, self-assessment reports issued by UAL and annual DEVA follow-up reports. As a consequence of the UAL change of procedure on SGC, some of the information provided was not updated. Throughout this process for accreditation renewal the University of Almería has included on the degrees websites information concerning these changes. It is maintained a recommendation for special follow-up in this final report for the verification of correct updating information once the UAL updating SGC process is finished.

As far as External Practices and Degree Final Thesis (TFG) is concerned, there is available information in two places, the Degree website and the Faculty webpage. Appropriate initiatives have been developed in order to avoid misunderstandings and the adequate links were established.

Several activities were developed for the promotion of the Degree among secondary education students. Additionally, the Faculty is present in social networks with a major activity related to this Degree.

Recommendations for special follow-up:

RECOMMENDATION FOR SPECIAL FOLLOW-UP 1.- The information on the new Quality Assurance System (SGC) must be updated following the modifications added by the University of Almería.

3.2. QUALITY ASSURANCE SYSTEM

It is partially achieved

It is a pending issue the Faculty of Sciences Quality Assurance commission setting-up which, according to the new normative on quality approved by the University of Almería, will be responsible for the new Quality Assurance System of this Degree.

The new Quality Assurance System is currently under development and it is not appropriate its evaluation at this moment, therefore the evaluations conducted will have to be interpreted in relation with the functioning of the system provided by the information for this accreditation renewal procedure. In this regard, according to the previous Follow-up Reports,

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the SGC was beyond the self-assessment reports submitted. The most relevant information on quality is public and easily accessible, although it is not updated. As a consequence of the new SGC, it is indicated there are a higher number of meetings and a better communication between the Degree coordinators and the Faculty dean team staff, which allows all Degrees common issues might be dealt with.

In general, the Follow-up report recommendations issued by DEVA have been appropriately attended. In most cases they have been addressed and, therefore, the original problem or weakness was resolved. For those cases still ongoing or unresolved, it is maintained in this report a specific indication on its origin. The Follow-up Report issued in July, 27, 2017, includes the following recommendation: "It is recommended to provide a more effective information on the areas for improvement or the difficulties detected". Such recommendation is based in the fact that there is not any specific document including all the actions for improvement added to the information justifying, defining and allowing their follow-up, attending the actions derived from the Follow-up Reports recommendations and originating in the SGC. Taking into account there is not such a document, it recommended its development, since a specific document including the actions for improvement must be issued, regardless of the transitory moment towards a new SGC.

It has been detected a low participation rate from students, teaching staff and PAS throughout the Degree Quality evaluation. Although a promotion for enhancing such participation has been verified, the specific actions developed to increase highly participation have not been defined or, at least, explained in the Improvement Plan. The actions included in the 2018 Annual Quality Plan and mentioned in the allegations provided by the University, have been neither detailed, therefore, the recommendation for its follow-up is maintained.

Recommendations:

RECOMMENDATION 1.- It is recommended that, as long as the Annual Quality Plan is available, a specific document is developed as Improvement Plan including all the actions derived from the Follow-up Reports recommendations and those ones originated in the SGC. For each one of them must be included the responsible person, indicators, deadlines and priority. It must follow a periodic procedure for analysis, revision and improvement.

RECOMMENDATION 2.- It is recommended to detail the actions carried out either in the Improvement Plan or in the Annual Quality Plan, as well as the actions developed for the promotion of students' and university staff participation in the Degree Quality evaluation.

3.3. EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMME DESIGN, ORGANISATION AND DEVELOPMENT

It is partially achieved

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The Bachelor Degree in Physical Activity and Sport Sciences provided by the University of Almería, consists of 240 credits ECTS. External Practices correspond to 12 of them, and 6 to the Bachelor Final Thesis. The optional subjects correspond just to 6 credits, that students may complete either by choosing between an offer, highly reduced, of two subjects, obtaining its recognition for participation in cultural activities, sports, students representation, solidarity activities and cooperation, as established in article 12.8 of Royal Decree 1393/2007, or by taking some of the subjects included in the General Catalogue for optional subjects of the University of Almería. Most of the students expressed they wish to have more available optional subjects related or linked to their studies (with special mention to health and nutrition) and a higher offer in practical counselling on sport subjects.

The Degree has been modified since its start in 2012. According to the the Degree direction, now is the occasion to outline this issue given its complete implementation (the year 2015-2016 was its first graduates promotion). A process for reflection is being designed, as well as for data collection and analysis of trends in statistical data, with a commission of experts (Degree and courses Coordinator, teachers, students and representatives of the Professional College of Bachelor Graduates in Physical Activity and Sport Sciences in Andalusia). This initiative is positively valued and it has been included in the Degree Improvement Plan to be aligned with the quality policy developed by the Quality Assurance Commission of the Faculty of Education Sciences. It is maintained a recommendation for its follow-up given that the objectives have been defined, nevertheless its functioning and schedule plan have not been detailed.

The number of places planned in the Verification Report is 75. This number has been totally covered in all the academic courses since its implementation, with a higher demand (lightly lower last years).

The different subjects educational Guides show several substantial differences with regards to the specifications in the Verification Report. After a Guides revision it was found that, in general, the competences planned in the Report are not included. Nearly any Guide includes the specific competences AFD1 to AFD12. In some of them (as "Anatomy applied to Movement") there are mistakes in the definition of working hours in class. In others, the difference is in content. The subject "Statistics applied to Physical activity and Sport" does not include two of the four contents planned in the Verification Report ("Introduction to Scientific Research" and "Paradigms and Research Designs") whereas, the whole subject totally develops the other two. In some of them, (as "Sociology of Physical Activity") the Guide shows some criteria and evaluation tools different to those ones included in the Report. Additionally, besides the situation of imbalance detected concerning most of the subjects, there is a short definition of the criteria and evaluation tools, although it has been detected other cases where they are clearly specified and according to the mention in the Report (for example, the Subject "Statistical applied to the Physical Activity and Sport"). An action has

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been included in the Improvement Plan, nevertheless a recommendation is maintained for special follow-up in this report to facilitate the outcomes evaluation.

Concerning External Practices (with 12 credits), several entities collaboration reflects the necessary profile included in the Report. The Degree direction wishes to reinforce and extend the number of entities with the aim of increasing the students' options. The number of places currently offered is enough for the enrolled students (47 entities, with a ratio of 2,7 places per student). The educational Guide for the subject *Practicum* has changed for three years since it was implemented. In general, in the three Guides reviewed, there are several differences between the information included in the Report and the inclusion in the educational Guide (concerning competences and evaluation systems) derived from the information included in the Report in sections that does not correspond (in the section contents the evaluation procedures are indicated, for example). In the last year Guide (2017-2018), a more detailed explanation is observed on the activities to be developed by students. A very detailed information is provided concerning administrative issues and procedures related to the use of ICARO application and other academic information complementary to the educational Guide. There are two documents denominated "Research Format Report" and "Report Format" (two documents that must be filled by students) with a denomination and content that generate confusion. On the other hand, there is another document denominated "Detailed Guide Practicum CAFYD 16-17" where two objectives are described, as well as the academic and professional tutors' functions, and the activities that students must develop. Information is unfocused and, in some cases, there are contradiction and gaps. It is positively valued the existence of a detailed Guide for external practices, however, it should be included all the information to avoid confusion with modalities and reports.

As far as the Degree Final Thesis is concerned, something similar occurs regarding the insufficient information included in the educational Guide (for example, the evaluation includes just a paragraph about penalisation for plagiarism. There is not a document unifying information, normative, formats, etc., facilitating its development by students and directors).

The information on common administrative procedures is clear, complete and easy to find. It is positively valued as a good practice the possibility of enquiry about credits recognition previously passed (since last year students' petitions were analysed).

Recommendations:

RECOMMENDATION 3.- It is recommended to detail in the Improvement Plan the experts commission functioning, schedule and actions and they will review the possibility of introducing changes or modifications in optional subjects.

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RECOMMENDATION 4.- It is recommended to develop a Guide for Practices and a Guide for TFM including all the necessary information for students, teaching staff and external tutors as well as the documents templates, evaluation tools, confidentiality commitments, etc. which must be used compiling all the information currently available in different sections and documents.

Recommendations for special Follow-up:

RECOMMENDATION FOR SPECIAL FOLLOW UP 2.- Educational Guides for every subjects must be reviewed and updated in order to properly include the provisions in the Verification Report, specifying in detail contents, evaluation systems, weighting parameters, etc.

3.4. TEACHING STAFF

It is partially achieved

Teaching staff involved in the Degree is sufficient and adequately qualified, as it has been observed over successive follow-up reports since its implementation. Despite the high percentage of permanent teaching staff, it is recognised by the UAL that permanent staff turnover is quite high, moreover this fact has an effect on educational development. There are some teachers with no permanent contracts for several years, highly valued by students, and with no difficulty. Nevertheless, there is also a high percentage of teaching staff with an annual turnover that generates some dysfunctions. In order to facilitate new teachers academic integration and to increase the number of permanent teaching contracts several measures have been designed. It is maintained the recommendation to facilitate the adopted measures follow-up.

The students positively valued the teachers' level of commitment and qualification, however, it is indicated that in some basic not strictly sporting subjects, teaching staff is not expert in sports with the consequent unspecific approach for this Degree.

The TFG directors designation is made in accordance with the UAL normative. There is a computer application available to facilitate the procedure. Both students and teachers positively value this procedure. Concerning external practices tutoring teaching staff, although they have an adequate profile, it has been verified that it is a low percentage, which implies also a higher percentage of students for supervision. During the visit, the Degree directors confirmed there are very few academic tutors and that they have tried to increase the number, but it is the teachers' personal decision to become an academic tutor for external practices as in any other subject. This argument has been explained in the allegations, therefore it is maintained the recommendation considering it has not been attended by the University.

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The same document providing more information about external practices includes data on external tutors' profile. Such profiles are adapted to the indications in the Verification Report and they are adequate for the students' work supervision and their subsequent valuation together with the academic tutor.

Academic coordination is accomplished through three levels: Degree coordinator and courses coordinations; second, academic teams for each course; and coordination teams for every subject (whenever there are several teachers). In July 2017 Follow-up Report it was remarked as a good practice the announcement of meetings made by the Degree Coordination with courses coordinators, teaching staff and students, at the beginning and at the end of every quadrimester, as well as the meeting at the beginning of the academic year with teachers and first year students, participating all coordinators (Degree Coordinator and Course Coordinators), for presentation of academic planning and explaining the Degree guidance towards health and recreation. During the visit it has been verified a high level of commitment with coordination and that, besides these formal coordination procedures, there is a fluent communication among teaching staff.

Recommendations:

RECOMMENDATION 5.- It is recommended to adopt measures to be included in the Improvement Plan, with the aim of minimising the difficulties caused by non permanent teaching staff turnover (temporary teachers for replacements).

RECOMMENDATION 6.- It is recommended to increase the number of academic tutors so that the number of students to be reviewed for external practices is reduced.

3.5. INFRASTRUCTURES, SERVICES AND RESOURCES ALLOCATION

It is achieved

Infrastructures and available resources are adequate for the development of the educational activities outlined by teachers. This Degree requires specific facilities for most of the subjects and special equipment. The Degree directors explained in the annual follow-up reports the improvements concerning equipment and material, and the coordination between the coordination team, the University of Almería vice-deanship for academic regulation and the Sports Service in order to schedule the timetables necessary for the use of all the available resources at UAL, highlighting that this Degree has a priority use for sport facilities. Over the

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last years, equipments have been improved and several agreements were established with external entities for the use of other facilities which are not available at the University. The direction, the students and the teachers' current valuation is positive concerning specific facilities. On the other hand, the valuation of conventional classrooms and other facilities is not positive. In the case of conventional classrooms, it is widely considered the building is old and needs renovation. Teaching staff confirms more facilities are needed in specific laboratories given that teaching dynamics and methodologies are affected by the limiting facilities.

Recommendations concerning this Degree academic and professional counselling services have been made in all the annual Follow-up Reports. The first ones, due to the lack of information on how attention to students was being organised; in the last one: "It is recommended to launch the academic an professional counselling service for students, and once it is available, it is recommended providing information about it" justifying that despite the University available general services there was not information on the impact concerning this Degree students. The self-assessment report includes data on the specific activities addressed to first and last years students, and annual job fairs organised by UAL and the Faculty. Social networks information might contribute as well to provide guidance and counselling to students. It is positively considered that the University has launched several specific improvement actions on the academic counselling procedures. It was also considered necessary the Faculty could provide its own counselling service, instead of the general one supplied by the University.

3.6. PROGRAMME OUTCOMES

It is partially achieved

The Plan of Studies, the educational methodology and evaluation systems guarantee competencies acquisition. Guides revision revealed certain deficiencies which have been included in this report. A more detailed information would allow to value whether the educational activities, methodology and evaluation systems are appropriate. The virtual Campus revision as well as the students and teachers' explanations during the audiences reflect its use is rather diverging concernig all the subjects. There is a wide diversity of additional documents in subjects; the explanations on evaluation procedures are positively valued, as they add more information to data included in the educational Guides. Nevertheless, in some subjects, (for example, Human Physiology), the students are provided with some fragments and chapters from books with no reference. It is reminded to respect authors copyrights and intellectual property therefore it is recommended to review the necessary reproduction licence.

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The TFG and practices reports revision indicate a high level of competence acquisition by the students at the end of their studies.

In summary, the evaluation of competencies applied for every subject in this Degree is adequate to their characteristics and concrete circumstances, and it guarantees that a positive evaluation represent a sufficient competency level.

Recommendations:

RECOMMENDATION 7.- It is recommended to review the contents (documents, fragments and chapters of books, articles in science magazines, et.) provided to students either through the virtual campus or platform with regards to authors copyrights and intellectual property rights.

3.7. SATISFACTION AND PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

It is achieved

Surveys determined that the students’ degree of satisfaction is high. Concerning external practices (with 12 credits) nearly no information is provided on the students degree of satisfaction regarding teachers’ tutoring procedures and external tutors. Due to the lack of positive values, the reasons for this relatively low degree of satisfaction should be analysed.

There are no available data related to the degree of satisfaction regarding the academic and professional counselling services. As indicated above, besides the University general services, specific actions have been designed and developed by the Faculty and they should be valued.

The values on academic indicators (graduate performance, success, graduation and withdrawal rates) present positive values coherent with the information included in the Verification Report. In general, there is a lack of information in this section. Since this information should be provided by the Quality Assurance System, the recommendations have been included in the corresponding section.

Finally, taking into account the available information, academic indicators, accessible resources used, there are no foreseeable risks to question the Degree sustainability.

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4. CONCLUSIONS

Taking into consideration the self-assessment report for accreditation renewal, the analysed documentary evidence, the audiences during the visit to the University, and after the deadline for allegations expired, the Accreditation Renewal Commission analysed the allegations and issued this Final Evaluation Report.

The Commission has verified and valued that the Bachelor Degree in Physical Activity and Sport Sciences at the University of Almería is provided in accordance with the guidelines established in the Verification Report and the recommendations included in the Follow-up reports by the Andalusian Knowledge Agency Direction for Evaluation and Accreditation, in spite of the fact that not all of them have been attended or resolved and, therefore, such recommendations are maintained in this report. The analysed documentary evidence indicates the Degree has followed a revision procedure which improved the educational programme, although there are even now some areas for improvement requiring special attention.

1. AVAILABLE PUBLIC INFORMATION

Recommendations for special Follow-up:

RECOMMENDATION FOR SPECIAL FOLLOW-UP 1.- The information provided by the Quality Assurance System (SGC) must be updated after the modifications introduced by the University of Almería.

2. QUALITY ASSURANCE SYSTEM

Recommendations:

RECOMMENDATION 1.- As long as an Annual Quality Plan is developed, it is recommended to produce a specific document as Improvement Plan collecting all the actions derived from the Follow-up reports recommendations as well as from the SGC. For every action the responsible person's name, deadlines, indicators and priority must be included. A procedure for periodical revision, analysis and improvement must be taken into account.

RECOMMENDATION 2.- The Improvement Plan or the Annual Quality Plan must include a detailed description of the actions designed and developed in order to promote the students and university staff participation in the Degree Quality assurance evaluation.

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3. EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMME DESIGN, ORGANISATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Recommendations:

RECOMMENDATION 3.- It is recommended to describe in detail in the Improvement Plan the Commission of experts functioning and scheduled actions, for the revision and modifications needed to increase the optional subjects offer.

RECOMMENDATION 4.- It is recommended to produce a Guide for Practices and a Guide for TFM, including the necessary and useful information for students, teaching staff and external tutors, as well as the documents templates, evaluation tools, confidentiality commitments, etc., by compiling all the information dispersed in different places and documents.

Recommendations for special Follow-up:

RECOMMENDATION FOR SPECIAL FOLLOW-UP 2.- The Academic Guides must be reviewed and modified in all subjects, and by including the information provided in the Verification Report, specifying in detail contents, evaluation systems, weighting parameters, etc.

4. TEACHING STAFF

Recommendations:

RECOMMENDATION 5.- It is recommended to adopt measures to be included in the Improvement Plan in order to minimise the difficulties generated by the temporary teaching staff turnover (temporary teachers for replacements, etc.).

RECOMMENDATION 6.- It is recommended to increase the number of academic tutors in order to decrease the number of students in external practices.

6. PROGRAMME OUTCOMES

Recommendations:

RECOMMENDATION 7.- It is recommended to review contents (documents, fragments and chapters of books, articles in scientific magazines, etc.) provided through the virtual campus or platform in regards to authors copyrights and intellectual property rights.

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The Accreditation Renewal Commission issued a favourable report

FRANCISCO GRACIA NAVARRO

DIRECTOR FOR EVALUATION AND ACCREDITATION

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