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### Final evaluation report on the application for an official Degree verification

<b>Degree Denomination</b>	Bachelor Degree in International Relations, University Pablo de Olavide
<b>Mention / Specialisation</b>	
<b>University applicant</b>	Univ. Pablo de Olavide
<b>Centre/s</b>	
<b>University/s participant</b>	<b>University Pablo de Olavide</b>
<b>Field of Knowledge</b>	<b>Legal Sciences</b>

The Andalusian Knowledge Agency Direction for Evaluation and Accreditation (AAC-DEVA) has evaluated the Plan of Studies leading to the aforementioned official university degree, in accordance with the provisions in article 25 of R.D. 861/2010, July, 2, modifying R.D. 1393/2007, October, 29, and with the *Evaluation Protocol for Official Degrees Verification (Bachelor and Master) (REACU)*.

The Plan of Studies evaluation has been conducted by the Evaluation Commission, from Legal Sciences field of knowledge, formed by national and international academic and professional experts in the corresponding degree and students. Whenever necessary, external experts have been able to participate and issue additional reports in this evaluation.

According to the legally established procedure and once the allegations process was accomplished by the University, the Reports Commission met in ordinary session and issued an **Unfavorable** evaluation report.

#### **Justification:**

##### **1. Degree description**

The Degree denomination is adequate to the skills and content described in the Plan of Studies. The proposal consists of 240 credits ects, "on-site", and 12 ects are offered for optional external practice. The number of places offered for new students is 90, however, just 20 places are offered for the Degree in Labour Relations. The distribution or assignation to "Double Degrees" must not be included in the Report, given that the information provided in the Verification Report is related to this Degree, therefore it must be autonomous and sufficient with respect to other degrees at the same University.

It is specified that the Degree vehicular language is generally Spanish, although several subjects will be taught in English. It is also pointed out that language subjects will be



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provided in the respective foreign languages, with the exception of the subject "Arabic" language which will be taught in Spanish.

It is included a link to the appropriate information on the rules for students' permanence in the proposed Degree, and it works correctly.

MODIFICATION:

1. It must be eliminated the justification reference on the number of places applied for the mention in "double degrees, since the Report is autonomously evaluated and the number of places offered for the implementation of this Degree must be indicated.

## **2. Justification:**

Documentary evidence is provided on the interest in the Degree.

External references have been included, national and international, and it has been indicated their influence in this Degree final design.

It is considered that internal and external enquiry procedures used in the Plan of Studies development are adequate. A multidisciplinary Technical Commission was appointed and expert reports in international relations were collected.

## **3. Skills**

Basic, general and specific skills are defined. Many of the general skills are not described by using competency verbs, and therefore they are not adequate (for example, CG 1, CG 3, CG4, CG, among others). The same occurs with the specific skill CE 04.

It is specifically indicated that this Degree does not include transversal skills.

The language competence that must be acquired by students is clearly determined in the Report.

MODIFICATION:

1.- Skills description must be revised so that they might be evaluated, and including in all of them a competency verb.

## **4. Students Access and Admission**

The Information systems previous to enrolment and new students reception and guidance procedures have been defined. A recommended access profile is included.

A minimum level in language competence for graduate students concerning compulsory language subjects is specified, making a distinction among the different languages provided.



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Enrolled students' support and counselling tools have been developed. As far as the "Tutorial Action Plan" is concerned, there is a new programme, "Lazarillo Programme"—final year students tutoring younger students.

Concerning credits ECTS transfer, the University plans the recognition of maximum 144 credits (60% from degrees) non-university higher education. According RD 1618/2011, arts. 5 and successive, a "direct relation" should exist among degrees from different education mentioned in annex 2 in the normative. The University applying for this Degree verification should provide therefore the corresponding agreement with the Autonomous Community and a comparative chart between the non-university higher education Degree or Degrees and the Degree in International Relations proposed. Nevertheless, the University has not the aforementioned agreement. In spite of this fact, the Report points out that when the corresponding applications were received, the UPO Degree Commission for credits transfer and recognition will design the corresponding chart, in accordance with the provisions in Royal Decree 1618/2011.

It is recommended for international students coming from countries where Spanish is not the official language a competence level B2 (independent user, advanced) in Spanish, in accordance with the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages.

It is recommended to have an intermediate level of English, French or German, and knowledge of one of them, arabic or italian.

MODIFICATION:

1.- The agreement with the Autonomous Community must be provided in order to ensure that students might apply for credits recognition where possible, in the programmes in which it might be realised, given that the recognition established for non-university higher education programmes is 144 credits.

## **5. Educational Planning**

As far as the Degree content is concerned, it is observed there is a variety of subjects necessary to know the current and future international reality, which specifically go beyond the International Relations, though being inherently related.

The optional subject "Politics and Environmental History", is related to the relations between politics and environment through History. It would be recommendable, nevertheless, a reflection on this issue, that is, on the appropriateness of such optional subject—"in History"—, instead of establishing a specific subject on the "Current International Regime for environmental protection".



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Concerning temporality, It would be recommendable reconsider whether the subject "Internet, Social Networks and International Relations" is appropriate for the first year as compulsory subject, since by analysing its content it seems more appropriate for last years, once students had acquired basic skills and knowledge on International Relations issues.

The Report accurately defines the different evaluation systems, nevertheless every criteria valuation is included in the description of such criteria. Relative weight of criteria or the definition deliberation of evaluation criteria must be eliminated, given that such criteria might vary based on the subject in which they were applied.

The sum of all the evaluation criteria minimum weighting is 100%.

Regarding the Degree appropriate mobility actions and counselling tools for students on mobility, there is an adequate provision of information on applicable cooperation agreements to facilitate students' mobility and on grants and finance support.

It is considered sufficient the inclusion of a brief description of the procedures for the Degree horizontal and vertical educational coordination.

#### MODIFICATION:

1.- Relative weighting or ponderation in the evaluation criteria definition must be eliminated, since such criteria might vary based on the subject in which they were applied.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS:

1.- It is recommended the reflection on the pertinence of including in the Degree the subject "Politics and Environmental History", instead of establishing a specific subject on the current international regime for environmental protection.

2.- It is recommended review the inclusion of the subject "Internet, Social Networks and International Relations" in the first year of the Degree.

3.- It is recommended to work on mobility Agreements specifically for students of this Degree in International Relations.

## **6. Academic and support staff**

As far as the available academic staff, data on their professional position, connection to university, field of knowledge, teaching and research experience, are provided. Nevertheless, there is a lack of information concerning a potential percentage of dedication to this Degree, information that should be individually provided, at least for each professor academic rank, instead of providing the information associated to fields of knowledge or departments.



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The faculty in charge of teaching the subjects relating strictly to International Relations is appropriate for the provision of such academic subjects.

The University states that the teaching staff assigned to the Degree is sufficiently qualified in terms of language skills to provide the proposed education.

It is considered adequate the available support staff participating in the Degree provision.

The Report includes mechanisms to guarantee the principles of equal opportunities between women and men, and on disability inclusion for teachers recruitment.

MODIFICATION:

1.- It must be provided enough information on the percentage of teachers' potential and individual dedication to this Degree or at least, by each academic rank.

## **7. Material Resources and Services**

The University available material resources and services guarantee the development of the Degree planned training activities, in compliance with the criteria of universal accessibility and design.

Concerning External Practices, they are offered as an annual optional subject with 12 ECTS in fourth year. The University considers that the currently available Agreements with enterprises and institutions, will allow an annual offer of about 15 and 20 places for external practices. Despite the University points out the reasons why just a low percentage from the 90 accepted students would apply for external practices, the fact is that it is not possible to establish in advance how many students will apply for external practice realisation every year.

The offer for new students for the corresponding Degree is 20 places. It is considered that maintaining the same number of places for external practices included in the Report-" about 15 and 20"- is insufficient for the number of students that would be admitted. It is necessary therefore, providing a number of Agreements and places for "External Practices" sufficient to guarantee their realisation by all the students interested in taking such optional subject, especially important for a Degree with these characteristics.

Specific agreements on the Degree similar scope are not provided to students for the external practices realisation in time and form. Updated amendments to the agreements of reference are not provided nor specific commitments for cooperation with the institutions or enterprises including the available places for external practices for this Degree sufficient for all the enrolled students.



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In order to guarantee the aforementioned offer to all students for the compulsory external practices realisation, it is considered that the specific agreements and amendments to the framework agreements signed for this Degree, as accreditation of the number of external practices available places offered to students who annually might apply for their performance in enterprises related to their scope of studies.

#### RECOMMENDATION:

1.- It is recommended to sign other Agreements for external practices specifically for this Degree in International Relations.

### **8. Expected Outcomes**

An estimation of indicators has been developed including the rates of enrolment, withdrawal, efficiency and performance. These rates are justified and in accordance with Royal Decree 861/2010, July, 2. The University provides the specific rates used to justify enrolment rates, dropout, efficiency and performance taking into account similar Degrees.

The University has defined a general procedure to evaluate the Degree in International Relations students' progress and learning outcomes, with the objective of describing how CEDEP guarantees the outcomes measure and analysis in order to improve the provided education quality.

### **9. Quality Assurance System**

It has been identified the body responsible for the Quality Assurance System in the Faculty of Law and its rules for internal operational functioning.

Amongst their functioning rules, it has been organised the teaching staff participation, the students', academic chairs, support staff and other external stakeholders.

Mechanisms for information dissemination have been established and addressed to all the stakeholders involved or interested in the Plan of Studies, its development and outcomes (Procedure PC14\_E03 Public Information).

Procedures on Education Quality data collection and analysis have been set out (PC02\_E02: Training programmes review and improvement; Teaching staff quality and PA05\_E02: Staff Evaluation).



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Additionally it is included the procedure PC09 in the Report : External Practices Management and Revision , to guarantee its quality, revision and improvement.

A procedure to guarantee students´ mobility programmes quality and correct development: PC\_E03 Management and Revision of students´mobility.

It has been established a procedure to measure labour market insertion and satisfaction with the training received by graduates (PC11\_E02: Management of labour market insertion) as well as by the different sectors involved: PA09\_E03: Satisfaction, needs and expectations.

According to the Report, a procedure for complaints and suggestions has been developed.

The University includes in the Report procedures for the Degree cancellation (PC13\_E02) , and the bodies with competences in decision making processes and deadlines are identified.

## **10. Implementation Schedule**

It is established the year for the implementation of this Degree in International Relations, 2018/2019. It is not required any other adaptation procedure from other students to this Plan.

Córdoba, May, 4, 2018

DEVA DIRECTOR

(DEVA Director signature)

Francisco Gracia Navarro