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Final evaluation report on the application for an official Degree verification

Degree Denomination	Master Degree in History of Latin America-Indigenous Worlds
Mention / Specialisation	-----
University applicant	University Pablo de Olavide (058)
Centre/s	Posgraduate Studies Centre
University participant	
Field of Knowledge	Arts and Humanities

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 the *Evaluation Protocol for Official Degrees Verification* (Bachelor and Master) (REACU).

The Plan of Studies evaluation has been conducted by the Evaluation Commission, from the field of knowledge of Arts and Humanities, formed by national and international academic and professional experts in the corresponding degree and students. Whenever necessary, external experts have participated and issued additional reports for 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 a Favourable evaluation report.

Additional recommendations are proposed in order to contribute to the Degree continuous improvement.

Justification:

1. Degree description

The proposal consists of 60 credits ECTS, blended-learning modality; taught in Spanish, nevertheless, the students' works may be submitted either in English or Portuguese. The number of places for new students is 30. Credits for external practices are not included. The Degree denomination is adequate to the skills and content provided.

Enrolment is considered for both full-time and part-time students, by specifying the number of credits that must be studied.

Continuity regulations established that students with disabilities and specific educational needs, confirmed by a SADF technical report, may maintain different



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learning rhythms and they may apply for time extension, in accordance with the provisions of the aforementioned normative.

2. Justification

The proposal provides a large amount of documentary evidence on the academic interest concerning the Degree proposed. It is thoroughly explained the University experience providing the preceding Degree and the outcomes obtained. A reasoned estimate on the Degree demand is provided, and although it is not quantified, it is mainly based in quality evidence and interesting factors for external students coming from different origins. Therefore, the Degree records and the proposing team institutional relations have been taken into consideration. The proposal underlines research possibilities on this issue at Seville, where the *General Archive of the Indies* is located. It counts on the collaboration of national and international institutions which supported and got involved in the Degree proposal.

Additionally, it is provided information on the relations with universities, national and international institutions; the Degree responsible staff has a wide knowledge on the institutions providing similar studies, concerning the possibility of collaboration (it is already established a network among some of them). It has been developed and thoroughly explained the procedure for internal and external enquiry (both national and international), formal and informal, with teachers' involvement from other national and international institutions, both in the proposal and in the Master teaching.

3. Skills

The report provides the types of expected skills: Basic, general, specific and transversal skills. All of them are properly described and valuable, as it is mentioned in the subject guides.

4. Students Access and Admission

The students access and admission regulations are described, as well as the use of social networks and channels, including the impact analysis in the report. The information systems previous to enrolment are defined. Pre-enrolment is only electronically registered, with a section for exceptional cases, and the recommended entry profile is defined by providing a list including the degrees regarding high, medium and low compatibility.

Counseling and support actions are also provided, as well as the tutorial action plan and its development, not only the University general ones, but also the Master specific actions for the on-site and online learning stages.

The University own admission criteria are established, such as the academic transcript GPA, research project, the candidate's profile eligibility. In addition, the Master's direction underlines that the lessons will be taught in Spanish, however, the students may submit their works in English or Portuguese, therefore language proficiency will be



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favourably valued during the application and evaluation process by analysing the candidates' profiles.

Credits transfer and recognition of official degrees and work career are specified.

5. Educational Planning

The studies plan is structured into units which are composed of several areas and subjects. Denomination, credits structure into subjects, annual temporality and training activities are considered adequate concerning units, subjects and the FMT. All the units and the corresponding subjects are compulsory, therefore no optional subjects or specialisation are offered. The reason is the previous experience with optional subjects offered in the former Master, nevertheless it would be advisable to analyse the possibility and convenience for the provision of several optional subjects.

Concerning subjects content, it is correctly described, as well as the skills assigned to them.

The educational activities, teaching methodology and evaluation systems were defined and adapted to the needs of units and subjects, by specifying and describing in detail the different marks weighting for the evaluation. Among the documentary evidence provided for the Degree justification, it was underlined the importance of the General Archive of the Indies in relation to the Master content, however, compulsory external practice is not included in the plan of studies, but only extra-curricular ones.

The Academic Commission decided the blended-learning modality is the most adequate for this Degree, due to the previous Master programme experience with blended-learning. This modality determines schedule (for example, for a long term for FTM preparation) as well as the intensive schedule for the course in-site stage. There is an institutional virtual learning platform—also with mobile access—which includes content, collaborative and communication tools, as well as video conference, evaluation and online plagiarism detector. The evaluation system is adapted both to time and the possibility of FTM virtual presentation through video conference.

The planning includes students counseling actions on mobility and information concerning agreements and possible grants, although it is not initially considered to study at another university. However, it is also provided information on cooperation agreements to facilitate mobility through UPO scholarships. It is explained this is one of the aspects for improvement taken into consideration for this Degree adaptation and that students' mobility is among the programme priorities. It is also mentioned the Master collaboration with other international universities academic programmes to facilitate this aim. The links provided in this section to the websites do not work.

The procedures for horizontal and vertical academic coordination, performed by an Academic Commission formed by five teachers, are clearly defined.

RECOMMENDATIONS:



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1. It is recommended to consider the inclusion of external practices in archives and specialised museums in order to improve the student body learning.
2. It is recommended to consider the inclusion of optional subjects for the Degree.

1. Academic and support staff

It has been specified the Degree academic staff, academic ranks, its connection with UPO and other universities, fields of knowledge and teaching and research experience, which is adequate in relation to the number of students, credits and areas. Teaching staff, who has also experience in the previous postgraduate programme, is adequate, balanced and qualified for the provision with full guarantees of the studies plan presented.

It is also explained the support staff origin coming from the Master Unit, as well as the structure, professional experience, and type of connection with UPO, and it is adequate to the number of students and other data of interest of the degree.

Gender equality criteria are respected and promoted, and UPO equality policy is explained in detail, since the report includes the articles corresponding to UPO Statutes and the commitment with its Gender Equality Plan.

2. Material Resources and Services

UPO Material resources, general services, means and facilities have been specified, specially the Postgraduate Studies Centre ones, in compliance with the universal criteria on accessibility and design. In general, it is observed a sufficient provisioning of all of them. The resources for a blended-learning modality are sufficient.

The University has programmes and maintenance services for the infrastructures improvement and adquisition, which might be useful for the degree enhancement in the future.

3. Expected Outcomes

An estimation of indicators has been developed including the rates of enrolment, withdrawal, efficiency and performance, properly justified in accordance with the provisions in Royal Decree 861/2010, July, 2. The estimation is based in the outcomes achieved over the last years before providing the Master in **History of Latin America-Indigenous Worlds**, which was structured into 90 credits. Specifically, it was included the information concerning the rates of enrolment, withdrawal, efficiency and performance from 2011-2012 to 2016-2017. This estimation developed is considered to be sufficiently justified.

The University has defined a general procedure for the assessment of this Master students' learning outcomes and progress (PC12 from SIGC), with the aim of defining how CEDEP guarantees the measurement and analysis of learning outcomes to be considered for decision-making and the improvement of the teaching provided. Is is



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also described in detail the UPO general procedure for the assessment of progress and learning outcomes, defining institutional directors and procedures. It is also mentioned, the mechanism for the outcomes assessment specially applied to this Master.

4. Quality Assurance System

It has been identified the body responsible for the Master Quality Assurance System (General Director for Postgraduate Follow-up and Quality Assurance) and the system has complete internal regulations on postgraduate official studies. Additionally, it is observed a development through agreements and guidelines concerning involvement of teaching staff, students, support staff and other external stakeholders. Regarding the developed procedures, the following specific procedures have been implemented:

—PC14_E02 on Public Information, which guarantees information spreading on the Degree.

—PC02_E02 Revision and Improvement of Educational Programmes, procedures for collection and analysis of information on quality assurance.

—PA05_E02 Assessment of Academic, Administration and Services staff, procedure which guarantees consistency between teaching and administrative staff with the degree needs.

—PC09 Management and Revision of external practices, procedure which guarantees academic progress through these learning complements.

— PC08_E03 Management and Revision of Students' Mobility, procedure which guarantees academic progress through the available mobility programmes.

—PC11_E02 Management of Labour Market Insertion, a procedure to measure labour market insertion and satisfaction with teaching received by graduates.

—PA09_E02 Satisfaction, Needs and Expectations from stakeholders, a procedure for the analysis of the different stakeholders' degree of satisfaction.

— procedure for complaints, suggestions and appeals.

—PC13_E02 Cancellation of the Degree, a procedure regulating the hypothetical cancellation of the degree, indicating the competent bodies for decision making and deadlines.

5. Implementation Schedule

It is proposed to implement the Degree through the academic year 2018-2019, including a detailed timeline structured into units and areas/subjects.

An adequate adaptation table has been included, explaining the criteria applied, with a continuity vision, which facilitates the transition from a programme with 90 credits (University Master in History of Latin America. Indigenous Worlds, by the University Pablo de



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Olavide-Postgraduate Studies Centre (ID: 4311990-4101551)) to another one with 60 credits, that has been assessed.

Córdoba, May, 4, 2017

DEVA DIRECTOR

(DEVA Director signature)

Francisco Gracia Navarro