



STUDIJŲ KOKYBĖS VERTINIMO CENTRAS

Lietuvos sveikatos mokslų universiteto
STUDIJŲ PROGRAMOS ODONTOLOGIJA
(*valstybinis kodas - 601A40002*)
VERTINIMO IŠVADOS

EVALUATION REPORT
OF ODONTOLOGY (*state code - 601A40002*)
STUDY PROGRAMME
at Lithuanian University of Health Sciences

Experts' team:

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4. **Mrs. Erminija Guzaitienė,** *representative of social partners',*
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Evaluation coordinator -

Mr. Edgaras Baumila

Išvados parengtos anglų kalba
Report language – English

DUOMENYS APIE ĮVERTINTĄ PROGRAMĄ

Studijų programos pavadinimas	Odontologija
Valstybinis kodas	601A40002
Studijų sritis	Biomedicinos mokslų studijų sritis
Studijų kryptis	Odontologija
Studijų programos rūšis	Universitetinės
Studijų pakopa	Vientisosios studijos
Studijų forma (trukmė metais)	Nuolatinė (5 metai)
Studijų programos apimtis kreditais	300 ECTS
Suteikiamas laipsnis ir (ar) profesinė kvalifikacija	Odontologijos magistras Gydytojas odontologas
Studijų programos įregistravimo data	1997 05 19

INFORMATION ON EVALUATED STUDY PROGRAMME

Title of the study programme	Odontology
State code	601A40002
Study area	Biomedical sciences
Study field	Dentistry
Type of the study programme	University studies
Study cycle	Integrated studies
Study mode (length in years)	Full-time (5 years)
Volume of the study programme in credits	300 ECTS
Degree and (or) professional qualifications awarded	Master of Odontology Doctor Odontologist
Date of registration of the study programme	19 th May, 1997

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The Centre for Quality Assessment in Higher Education

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I. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the evaluation process

The evaluation of on-going study programmes is based on the **Methodology for evaluation of Higher Education study programmes**, approved by Order No 1-01-162 of 20 December 2010 of the Director of the Centre for Quality Assessment in Higher Education (hereafter – SKVC).

The evaluation is intended to help higher education institutions to constantly improve their study programmes and to inform the public about the quality of studies.

The evaluation process consists of the main following stages: 1) *self-evaluation and self-evaluation report prepared by Higher Education Institution (hereafter – HEI)*; 2) *visit of the review team at the higher education institution*; 3) *production of the evaluation report by the review team and its publication*; 4) *follow-up activities*.

On the basis of external evaluation report of the study programme SKVC takes a decision to accredit study programme either for 6 years or for 3 years. If the programme evaluation is negative such a programme is not accredited.

The programme is **accredited for 6 years** if all evaluation areas are evaluated as “very good” (4 points) or “good” (3 points).

The programme is **accredited for 3 years** if none of the areas was evaluated as “unsatisfactory” (1 point) and at least one evaluation area was evaluated as “satisfactory” (2 points).

The programme is **not accredited** if at least one of evaluation areas was evaluated as "unsatisfactory" (1 point).

1.2. General

The Application documentation submitted by the HEI follows the outline recommended by the SKVC. Along with the self-evaluation report and annexes, the following additional documents have been provided by the HEI before, during and/or after the site-visit:

No.	Name of the document
1.	Final work Baigiamasis darbas OF/VOK/O-U37
2.	Lithuanian University of Health Sciences Graduates Questionnaire
3.	Assessment of the study process (Student’s Questionnaire)
4.	Explanatory letter from PLLC “MEDPROJECT” Clinical Educational Center

1.3. Background of the HEI/Faculty/Study field/Additional information

Lithuanian University of Health Sciences (LSMU) is the largest institution of health specialists' education and training in Lithuania. The university includes 7 faculties (Faculty of Medicine, Faculty of Odontology, Faculty of Pharmacy, Faculty of Nursing, Faculty of Public Health, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Faculty of Animal Husbandry Technology), 6 research institutes, two animal clinics and the Hospital of LSMU. The Faculty of Odontology in Kaunas offers two study programmes:

- Odontology Study Programme
- Oral Hygiene Study Programme

Besides the Odontology study programme at the LSMU in Kaunas, there is the possibility to study Dentistry at Vilnius University in Vilnius Lithuania.

The Faculty of Odontology was established in 1968 and has been a part of Kaunas Medical Institute until it was reorganized into Kaunas Medical Academy in 1989, which was, renamed Kaunas University of Medicine later. At the moment, the structural subdivisions of the Faculty of Odontology are five Clinics (Departments):

- Clinic of Dental and Oral Pathology
- Clinic of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery
- Clinic of Prosthodontics
- Clinic of Preventive and Paediatric Dentistry
- Clinic of Orthodontics

The last assessment of the Odontology study programme was carried out by an external international committee and took place in 2012. The team of experts familiarized with the previous evaluation report as well.

The present report is based on the remote study of the Self-Evaluation Report (SER) provided to the experts' team panel by the LUHS and experiences and observations gathered during the site visit on May 22nd, 2015.

The guidelines for the review have been provided by the Centre for Quality Assessment in Higher Education (SKVC) in Lithuania.

The expert team experienced a very friendly welcome and was professionally treated and served throughout the entire on-site visit.

Recommendations for improvement have been made to help the Lithuanian University of Health Sciences, Faculty of Odontology in Kaunas to improve even further. The entire team took all decisions concerning the final evaluation report.

Abbreviations:

SKVC Centre for Quality Assessment in Higher Education in Lithuania

LUHS Lithuanian University of Health Sciences

SER Self – Evaluation Report

HEI Higher Education Institution

AIKOS atvira informavimo, konsultavimo ir orientavimo sistema

ECTS European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System

LO Learning outcome

SIS STUDIJŲ INFORMACINĖ SISTEMA

1.4. The Review Team

The review team was completed according *Description of experts' recruitment*, approved by order No. 1-01-151 of Acting Director of the Centre for Quality Assessment in Higher Education. The Review Visit to HEI was conducted by the team on May 22nd, 2015.

- 1. Dr. Ulrike Stephanie Beier, (team leader)** *Head Associate Professor, Innsbruck Medical University, Austria*
- 2. Bo Danielsen,** *Head of School of Oral Health Care, Denmark.*
- 3. Dr. Andres Pascual La Rocca,** *Co-Director Master in Periodontics, Universitat Internacional de Catalunya, Spain.*
- 4. Mrs. Erminija Guzaitienė,** *personal clinic of E. Guzaitienė, doctor-odontologist, Lithuania.*
- 5. Mr. Benas Gabrielis Urbonavičius,** *student of Vilnius University, study programme Physics, Lithuania.*

II. PROGRAMME ANALYSIS

2.1. Programme aims and learning outcomes

The Odontology Study programme is scheduled as a 5-year Integrated programme leading to the Master of Odontology (300 ECTS). There are two branches - one Lithuanian and one international (English).

The programme meets the requirements set by the EC directive 2005/36/EC of the European parliament and of the Council on the Recognition of Professional Qualifications. The programme aims and learning outcomes are also compatible to the integrated cycle of studies and the seventh qualification level of studies according to the descriptors defining levels in the European Qualifications Framework (EQF).

The Odontology Study programme is corresponding to the department's mission statement and principles of operation as stated in the SER (page 11). The learning outcomes in detail were provided in Annex 6: Competences of the Graduating Student in the Programme „Odontology“.

This study programme at the Lithuanian University of Health Sciences in Kaunas was the third most popular study programme in Lithuania in 2014 with 458 applicants, although only 60 places are state-funded. The total number of students was 765 in 2013/14. Now, according to the recommendations made by the last external evaluation team in 2012, the annual intake was reduced to 80 students in the Lithuanian and 30 students in the international programme. It is seen as a commendable step by the evaluation team.

As the evaluation team revealed during discussions with students, staff, alumni and the social partners, the programme aims and learning outcomes seem to be reasonable for all parties, involved in the study programme. Also, the labour market tendencies and requirements are well considered. The rate of unemployment of the dental graduates is less than 1% at the moment, which verifies the programme's success within the labour market.

The Odontology study programme is, in essence, organized and conducted according to the European standards.

There are some inconsistencies regarding the English translation of the programme name in the official Lithuanian database AIKOS and the SER prepared by the HEI representatives. The name of the programme is not in accordance with similar programmes elsewhere. The experts would suggest changing the official programme name of the study programme in English from “Odontology” to “Dentistry” in order to be accordance with the international standards.

2.2. Curriculum design

The Odontology Study programme is scheduled as a 5-year Integrated programme leading to the Master of Odontology. There are two branches of the programme – one being implemented in Lithuanian and the other one is international (implemented in English).

The degree programme comprises 300 ECTS credits, which include lectures, seminars, group teaching, self-learning periods and practical training, both in the phantom-head laboratory and in the clinic. The curriculum is divided into a preclinical (first 2 years) and a clinical part (last 3 years). The preclinical stage comprises two years of basic and biomedical studies. The first patient contact is in the third year of study, during the three-year clinical stage, practical training makes up about one-third of the course load. The subject assessment is mainly organized by written examination and presentations of a patient case as a demonstration of practical skills.

From the detailed information about the subjects per year provided in SER (Appendix 1) the evaluation team may verify that the content of the subjects and /or modules are consistent with the type and level of the studies. It is estimated that the subjects, contents and methods proposed are suitable for the achievement of the intended learning outcome (LO).

The scope of the programme, its subjects, contact and individual work hours correspond to the requirements of legal acts and other legislation documents of the Republic of Lithuania, which regulate studies: “Description of General Requirements for Degree-Awarding First Cycle and Integrated Study Programmes”.

In the Odontology study programme, the teaching methods (e.g. FirstClass platform) and content of teaching units are sufficient for the successful achievement of the programme’s goals and outcomes. The small group teaching (max. 10 students) allows personal demonstration and supervision particularly with the phantom models and patients. The team of experts commends the focus on patient treatment in the last three years, but students should have an immediate relationship to dentistry as early as possible. In the first year courses with clinical relevance, e.g. dental material module, could be installed to practise aspects of clinical dentistry.

An unscreened clinic course where students undertake initial diagnosis and treatment planning sessions to improve their confidence and prepare them for general dental practice should be installed in the clinical time. Additionally, the programme leaders could consider opportunities for interprofessional learning with dental hygienist and dental technicians.

Possible changes in the curriculum and the contents of the study programme can be made with the participation of all subdivisions, also consulting the students and the graduates, and in cooperation with social stakeholders and employers (SER, page 13).

It is worth mentioning that during the information provided in the SER regarding the final thesis (scientific work) was not informative enough. Thus additional information was obtained during the site visit (additional documents), discussions revealed that at the end of the studies students have to present a two part final work: practical (patient description and treatment plan) and a scientific research part (final thesis). The final thesis has to be a single subject in the future, as currently it is divided of separate subjects. Requirements of the scientific part of the final work should be made clearer and the number of ECTS credits that dedicated for the scientific thesis must be separated from the practical part and clarified. An important improvement will be the restructure of a diploma-thesis (approx. 20-30 ECTS) to the programme in order to be compatible with similar programs in the European Community.

The restructured final thesis will raise the workload of the students in the final year. To assure the quality of the program, the Faculty must not reduce the practical work with the patients. Thus the programme managers should make considerations to extend the curriculum for one year. The extended study period like an internship in the 6th year could accomplish more research time and patient treatment.

At the current time Specialty and PhD models in Odontology are not established. A higher research outcome would be a good basis to plan these additional study programmes and integrate them in the upcoming facility plan.

2.3. Teaching staff

From the information provided in the SER incongruence was detected. The SER Annex 2 states that there are in total 273 staff members (154 full-time and 119 part-time), but in Annex 3 294 CV's were provided. Additionally, in paragraph 49 (page 21) of the SER in total 112 teachers were mentioned for the study programme of Odontology. After the discussions during the site-visit it appears to the experts' team, that the number of 112 teachers seems to be valid and was later used for calculation of the teacher-student-ratio with 1: 6.83 (112 teacher: 765 students) which is in accordance with the current requirements of the LR Labour Code. Most of the teaching staff belongs to the 5 dental Clinics/Departments, but academic staff of 20 other departments (17 faculty departments and 3 research institutes) are additionally involved in the teaching of the Odontology program.

In the last 3 years of the curriculum, the students work in the dental clinics treating patients on their own under the supervision of assistants and professors of the Odontology programme. Therefore the expert team commends the small group teaching: 12 groups in Lithuanian and 3-4 groups in English with a maximum group size of 10 students, and for the foreign students a

maximum group size of 7 students. There are still attempts to reduce the group size in the future (SER, p.21), which will further improve the study programme.

The majority of the teaching staff has graduated at LSMU and have become experienced dentists. During the site-visit the evaluation team experienced that the teaching staff are highly qualified and motivated. They monitor the students by continuous appraisal and regular assessment and seem to be accepted by patients and their profession. The LSMU teaching staff is certified every 5 years, if the teachers do not meet the educational, scientific or practical criteria for their position – their academic activity will be discontinued and they have to repeat the certification procedure for renewal to ensure high academic qualifications. A low fluctuation in the teaching staff was recognized leading to a high level of practical experience what is crucial for the dental clinical training.

The area of responsibility for dental teachers can be divided into three parts:

1. lecturing/supervision during practical skills;
2. treating own patients;
3. research.

The Academic staff has research experience and participates regularly in scientific conferences. From the material provided in the SER and the discussions with the teachers during the on-site visit, it was proven, that the research activities have improved since the last accreditation and with the restructure of the final scientific thesis this will further improve in the future years.

As this is a problem for all dental faculties worldwide, the workload for the academic staff is very high. The academic staff seems to need more time to develop their own skills. During the discussions with the students it was mentioned that the majority of the teachers are able to give good constructive feedback, but still there are teachers who need to develop their educational skills, for example they have ethic concerns, because in some cases negative feedback is given in front of the patient. The expert team recommend implementing a staff development strategy for clinical teachers, which includes learning about educational principles and active learning techniques.

2.4. Facilities and learning resources

First of all it should be noted that there was very low information in the SER regarding the facilities and learning resources for this programme. Nevertheless, the information lacking in the SER was generated during the on-site visit.

After the last external evaluation in 2012, 10 new dental chairs and 10 phantom heads were bought. The total number of working places has increased to 35 dental chairs and 30 phantom

heads in total. The reduced number of students (80 Lithuanian students and another 30 international ones) and the shift time working system from Monday to Saturday (8am to 8pm) now allows the students groups (max. 20 students) to have more patient contact hours. The University Clinic now also reduced the running costs of the students providing consumables and dental materials.

The lecture rooms are well stuffed and sufficient and have easy accessibility to Internet for all. The library has its own separate modern building with all the necessary facilities – reading rooms, conference classes, computer classes, individual study rooms, free Wi-Fi and a local canteen. There is also a good variety of subscribed databases such as MEDLINE, PUBMED, EBSCO, Up To Date, BMJ Journals, MD Consult, RefWorks etc. (in total, 29), which the students and the teachers have access too. Generally, the students expressed their appreciation of the library conditions.

The team was impressed by the use of the Internet (<http://www.manodantukai.lt>) for efficient patient recruitment. As an internal Study Information System the FirstClass platform is used to connect students, teachers and administrators.

There is also a new research facility that was build close to the library that will allow further research projects in the future.

Nevertheless, it should be noted that all these facilities are located in different buildings and clinic, which makes integrated clinical work very complicated and patients might experience this as unprofessional. Thus the evaluation team advices the University in a long-term perspective – to build a new Dental Clinic and to merge all clinics in order to allow a study programme to run according to the European standards.

In conclusion it could be said that currently the infrastructure, including the provision of phantom heads and dental chairs, is, in essence, adequate to run the Odontology Study programme. However the team would recommend optimizing the infrastructure of the whole premises and the organizational structures.

2.5. Study process and students' performance assessment

The expert team was impressed meeting highly capable and hardworking students with great motivation and constant interest to upgrade their skills.

In 2013/14 the total number of students was 765 in 2013/14 (153 students on average per year). During the on-site visit it was mentioned that the annual intake was reduced to 80 students and 30 students in the international (English) programme, the last year. There are 60 state-funded places. The annual student fee for the non-funded study places is 9.600 EUR per year. The expert

team very much appreciated the reduced number of students, because it helps optimizing the study process regarding the ratio between the students and teaching in smaller groups and also the ratio between the students and working places

The admission of students to the programme is competitive and based mainly on the grades of School Leaving Examinations. The admission criteria and principles are clearly described and publicly available through the websites of the LUHS and The Lithuanian Higher Institutions Association for Organizing Joint Admission. Currently, the admission score includes the grades in Lithuanian language and biology as compulsory elements and chemistry or mathematics as elective ones.

Average admission score is >19 out of 20 possible during 2011-2013 admissions. During the 2013 and 2014 admission this study program was the 3rd most popular study programme in Lithuania. This shows that the program attracts talented students that are highly motivated. This is backed up with the low dropout rate of <2%.

It can be seen that the admission process applied at the moment is currently only based on the grades of School Leaving Examination. In the future the Faculty could further explore what kind of qualities they want in a Lithuanian dentist. They could explore non-academic criteria for admission and maybe install a test of manual dexterity.

A wide repertoire of teaching methods are used, including lectures, seminars, and discussions and projects performed in groups, and more individual work like presentations and project work. Often the courses combine theory with practical or experimental work. The first patient contact is in the third year of study, from that point the practical training makes up about one-third of the course load using phantom heads and treating patients under supervision in the different dental departments. Discussions during the site-visit revealed that the students wish to have more complex cases to be all-out prepared. An extended study period like an internship in year six could accomplish more patient treatment.

Furthermore, the students are given good possibilities to do research practice in the laboratories of the units participating in the programme, and sometimes even be recruited as junior staff in projects supported by external funds. Students are also invited to research seminars. This promotes students' involvement in research early on.

At the end of the studies students have to present a two part final work - practical (patient description and treatment plan) and a scientific research part. Requirements of the scientific part of the final work should be made clearer and the number of ECTS credits that dedicated for the scientific thesis must be separated from the practical part and clarified. The current number of ECTS for the practical part of the final work is not adequate to the required work.

The programme and the University provide the students with adequate academic and social support. Individual consultations are available and the students receive help regarding academic problems related to Research projects and Final thesis. There are scholarships for the best students, and social scholarships are available for the ones with poor financial background. Psychological help is also available for the students, as well there are social event organized by the student associations.

The expert team commends that in the first year the students have a tutor amongst the older students to better adapt to the study process and to introduce the city, living conditions, traditions, student organizations, etc. The expert team thinks that this system could be extended to the international students to support internationalization at the University campus in the Odontology Faculty.

A lot of effort is put in to promoting international exchange. From 2011 there is a constant flow of students that uses ERASMUS and similar programmes for international exchange. Number of students that go abroad is ~20 every year. Students go abroad not only for studies, but also for practice placements.

The students' performance is assessed by diverse methods, often combining feedback and evaluation during the course with exam/exams as a summative assessment submitted for credit. Students are presented with the assessment schedule at the beginning of the course. All relevant information including full course descriptions is available online. It should be noted, however, that in some cases the feedback provided to the students is told in front of the patients. This should be changed as this kind of practice violates ethics.

The administration of the programme recently started the traceability programme for the graduates, regarding the employment, preliminary results shows that the graduates of the program are employed by the profession or continuous their scientific carrier in further studies, with <1% of unemployment.

Overall, the studies are organized in a way that facilitates the achievement of the learning outcomes and accustoms the students with their future work.

2.6. Programme management

The responsibilities for the implementation of the Odontology programme are clearly described and appropriately allocated (SER pages 28-31). According to information provided by the SER, the main element of the programme management is the faculty council, consisting of 2 main commissions – the commission of studies (deputy dean, four teachers and one student) and the commission of science. The council collaborates with students' representatives. The faculty

council is elected for 5 years consisting of 11 members (teachers) and 2 students. The final discussions must be affirmed by the rectorate.

The Study Program Committee (SPC) helps in ensuring the quality of studies. The composition of the Committee is approved by the resolution of the LUHS Senate¹ and by the Order of the LUHS Rector. The Committee of the Odontology study programme includes three teachers from different subdivisions participating in the implementation in this programme, as well as representatives of the administration, students, and social stakeholders. As regards the responsibility for specific tasks like the innovation and improvement of the program this is given to the faculty Study Program Committee (SPC). It seems that practically the implementation of the programme is under the responsibility of the SPC that according to the decisions to be taken collaborates with the Faculty Council.

According to the information provided by the SER, the university academic information system exists for the collection of data and for the management of the study programme. The data collected are mainly related to final degree projects, statistics for mobility of students and teachers, student's academic record, etc.

The LUHS study information system (SIS) database presents the data on quality evaluation accessible to teachers and subdivisions in charge. The data concerning the results of quality improvement are disseminated by presenting them in the University website www.lsmuni.lt and the weekly "Ave Vita".

The Committee of Studies Monitoring and Quality Assurance monitor the quality of studies at LUHS. As a result the content of many programme subjects has been improved according to suggestions of students, teachers and the social partners

Another way to improve the quality of the programme is the study of the students' feedback regarding the subjects taught, their teachers' performance and other information about the university. An example for questionnaires was presented during the on-site visit. The answers of the students' questionnaires are discussed in the meetings of the various faculty committees and appropriate actions are taken. Additionally the administration of the study programme just started the traceability programme for the graduates.

It could be concluded that the outcomes of internal and external evaluations are widely used for improvement of the programme. This was confirmed during the site visit by the reduced number of students (80 domestic plus 30 international), implementation of free material to use during studies and the investment in new phantom places and dental chairs. Thus the recommendations made by the previous evaluation team were indeed implemented by the

¹Resolution of the LSMU Senate No. 25-08, "Regulations of the Study Programme Committees of the Lithuania University of Health Sciences", December 14, 2012.

Faculty. Unfortunately these improvements were not visible in the SER at all. The team of experts received a rather low quality SER that had numerous errors and lack of information in different areas. The team would greatly encourage securing and improving the responsibilities for preparation and coordination of the SER for the next accreditation in the future and also to improve the whole quality development process.

In conclusion, the evaluation team confirms that internal quality assurance measures are effective and efficient.

III. RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The future Self Evaluation Report must be accomplished according to the guidelines and greatly improved in terms of quality in order to improve the whole quality development process. Responsibilities should be secured for preparation and coordination of the SER.
2. The official programme name of the study programme in English should be changed from “Odontology” to “Dentistry” in order to be accordance with the international standards.
3. Restructuring of the diploma-thesis (approx. 20-30 ECTS) in order to be compatible with similar programs in the European Community.
4. From the first year, students should study and practice aspects of clinical dentistry (e.g. dental material lecture or learning to give oral hygiene instructions).
5. The programme team could consider opportunities for interprofessional learning with dental hygienist and dental technicians.
6. Specialty and PhD models in Dentistry could be planned for the future and integrated in the new facility plan of a dental clinic in the next years.
7. The expert team advices the University in long-term to build a new Dental Clinic and to merge all clinics in order to allow a study programme to run according to the European standards.
8. Establish an unscreened clinic where students undertake initial diagnosis and treatment planning sessions to improve their confidence and prepare them for general dental practice.
9. Develop a staff development strategy for clinical teachers, which include learning about educational principles and active learning techniques.
10. International students should be more integrated within the community.

IV. SUMMARY

The expert team experienced a very friendly welcome and was professionally treated and served throughout the entire on-site visit. However the documentation for the Odontology Study programme (SER) was poorly prepared as well as incomplete and for the experts' team it was overall disappointing. Nevertheless, the on-site visit cleared basically all of the doubts there were raised by the team regarding the information provided in the SER.

The Odontology Study programme is scheduled as a 5-year Integrated programme leading to the Master of Odontology (300 ECTS). The programme meets the requirements set by the EC directive 2005/36/EC of the European parliament and of the Council on the Recognition of Professional Qualifications. Now, according to the recommendations by the last external evaluation in 2012 the annual intake was reduced to 80 students in the Lithuanian and 30 students in the international programme.

The evaluation team can verify that during discussions with students, teaching staff members, alumni and the social partners, the programme aims and learning outcomes seem to be reasonable for all parties, involved in the study programme. Also, the labour market requirements are well considered. It can be supplemented by the fact that the rate of unemployment of the dental graduates is less than 1% at the moment. The Odontology study programme is, in essence, organized and conducted according to the European standards. Although the experts would suggest changing the official programme name of the study programme in English from "Odontology" to "Dentistry".

The evaluation team can verify that the content of the subjects and/or modules are consistent with the type and level of the studies. The expert team commends the small group teaching (max 10 students) and the focus on patient treatment in the clinic. However the final thesis has to be a single subject in the future. Requirements of the scientific part of the final work should be made clearer and the number of ECTS credits that dedicated for the scientific thesis must be separated from the practical part and clarified. The restructured final thesis will raise the workload of the students in the final year. To assure the quality of the program, the Faculty should not reduce the practical work with the patients and also considerations should be made to extend the curriculum for one year. The extended study period, like an internship in year six, could accomplish more research time and patient treatment.

The total number of teachers of the programme is in accordance with the current requirements of the LR Labour Code. The study programme is provided by the staff meeting legal requirements. The qualifications and the number of the teaching staff are adequate to ensure learning outcomes.

The teaching methods and content of teaching units are sufficient for the successful achievement of the programme's goals and outcomes. However the workload for the academic staff is very high and it looks like that they need more time to develop their own skills or follow their research projects. Focus on implementing a staff development strategy for clinical teachers, as well as courses that include learning about educational principles and active learning techniques will improve the situation.

Infrastructure, including the provision of phantom heads and dental chairs, is, in essence, adequate to run the Odontology Study programme. After the last external evaluation new equipment was bought, so the total number of working places has increased. Also the reduced number of students and the shift time working system from Monday to Saturday (8am to 8pm) now allows the students groups (max. 20 students) to have more patient contact hours. The lecture rooms, especially the library, are well stocked and sufficient and have easy accessibility to Internet for all. A new research facility was built close to the library that will allow further research projects in the future.

Nevertheless, being located in different clinics makes integrated clinical work very complicated. The expert team advises the University in long-term to build a new Dental Clinic and to merge all clinics in order to allow a study programme to run according to the European standards.

Students are highly capable and hardworking, and they have a great motivation and constant interest to upgrade their skills. The employers are generally satisfied with the graduates, but still more clinical practice would be very much appreciated by students and employers.

The expert team commends the student mentoring system, the first-year students have a tutor amongst the older students to better adapt to the study process and to introduce the city, living conditions, traditions, student organizations, etc. There is good cooperation between students and academic staff. In general – the studies are organized in a way that facilitates the achievement of the learning outcomes and accustoms the students with their future work.

The responsibilities for the implementation of the Odontology Study programme are clearly described. The responsibilities for specific tasks like the innovation and improvement of the program are given to the faculty Study Program Committee (SPC). Nevertheless the team of experts would encourage securing the preparation and coordination of the SER to improve the whole quality development process in the future. As regards the data collected for monitoring of the program, these are mainly related to the final degree projects, statistics for mobility of students and teachers, student's academic records, etc. These data are analysed by the SPC, used for quality improvement activities and are also available in the university webpage.

In conclusion the expert team thanks the University, all the staff and students they met during the on-site visit for their openness, commitment, enthusiasm and effort to improve the Odontology study program.

V. GENERAL ASSESSMENT

The study programme Odontology (state code – 601A40002) at Lithuanian University of Health Sciences is given **positive** evaluation.

Study programme assessment in points by evaluation areas.

No.	Evaluation Area	Evaluation of an area in points*
1.	Programme aims and learning outcomes	3
2.	Curriculum design	3
3.	Teaching staff	3
4.	Facilities and learning resources	3
5.	Study process and students' performance assessment	3
6.	Programme management	3
	Total:	18

*1 (unsatisfactory) - there are essential shortcomings that must be eliminated;

2 (satisfactory) - meets the established minimum requirements, needs improvement;

3 (good) - the field develops systematically, has distinctive features;

4 (very good) - the field is exceptionally good.

Grupės vadovas: Team leader:	Dr. Ulrike Stephanie Beier
Grupės nariai: Team members:	Bo Danielsen
	Dr. Andres Pascual La Rocca
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**LIETUVOS SVEIKATOS MOKSLŲ UNIVERSITETO ANTROSIOS PAKOPOS
STUDIJŲ PROGRAMOS ODONTOLOGIJA (VALSTYBINIS KODAS – 601A40002)
2015-08-04 EKSPERTINIO VERTINIMO IŠVADŲ NR. SV4-229 IŠRAŠAS**

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V. APIBENDRINAMASIS ĮVERTINIMAS

Lietuvos sveikatos mokslų universiteto studijų programa *Odontologija* (valstybinis kodas – 601A40002) vertinama **teigiamai**.

Eil. Nr.	Vertinimo sritis	Srities įvertinimas, balais*
1.	Programos tikslai ir numatomi studijų rezultatai	3
2.	Programos sandara	3
3.	Personalas	3
4.	Materialieji ištekliai	3
5.	Studijų eiga ir jos vertinimas	3
6.	Programos vadyba	3
Iš viso:		18

* 1 – Nepatenkinamai (yra esminių trūkumų, kuriuos būtina pašalinti)

2 – Patenkinamai (tenkina minimalius reikalavimus, reikia tobulinti)

3 – Gerai (sistemiškai plėtojama sritis, turi savitų bruožų)

4 – Labai gerai (sritis yra išskirtinė)

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IV. SANTRAUKA

Per apsilankymą ekspertų grupė buvo labai draugiškai sutikta ir profesionaliai aptarnauta bei aprūpinta. Tačiau Odontologijos studijų programos dokumentacija (IS) buvo parengta labai prastai ir neišsamiai, ir tai ekspertus nuvylė. Nepaisant to, per vizitą universitete buvo atsakyta į visus vertinimo ekspertams kilusius klausimus dėl IS nepateiktos informacijos.

Odontologijos studijų programa trunka penkerius metus, kurią baigus suteikiamas odontologijos magistro laipsnis (300 ECTS kreditų). Programa atitinka Europos Parlamento ir Tarybos direktyvoje 2005/36/EB dėl profesinių kvalifikacijų pripažinimo nustatytus reikalavimus. Taigi, vadovaujantis paskutiniojo išorės vertinimo (2012 m.) rekomendacijomis, kasmet priimamų studentų skaičius buvo sumažintas iki 80-ies studentų iš Lietuvos ir 30-ies studentų tarptautinėje programoje.

Vertinimo grupė gali patvirtinti, kad per diskusijas su studentais, dėstančiojo personalo nariais, buvusiais studentais ir socialiniais partneriais buvo pareikšta, jog programos tikslai ir studijų rezultatai tenkina visas studijų programoje dalyvaujančias šalis. Taip pat pakankamai atsižvelgiama į darbo rinkos reikalavimus. Ši teiginį galima papildyti faktu, įrodančiu, kad šiuo metu odontologijos studentų nedarbingumo lygis yra mažesnis nei 1 proc. Iš esmės odontologijos

studijų programa yra organizuojama ir vykdoma pagal Europos standartus. Visgi ekspertai oficialų programos pavadinimą anglų kalba iš *Odontology* siūlytų pakeisti į *Dentistry*.

Vertinimo grupė gali patvirtinti, kad dalykų ir (ar) modulių turinys atitinka studijų pobūdį ir lygį. Ekspertų grupė teigiamai vertina mokymą mažomis grupelėmis (iki 10 studentų) ir susitelkimą į paciento gydymą klinikoje. Tačiau baigiamasis darbas ateityje turėtų būti viena tema. Reikėtų aiškiau išdėstyti reikalavimus, taikomus baigiamojo darbo mokslinei daliai, o ECTS kreditai, skiriami už mokslinę darbo dalį, turėtų būti atskirti nuo gaunamų už praktinę dalį ir visa tai geriau paaiškinta. Pakeitus baigiamojo darbo struktūrą paskutiniaisiais studijų metais padidėtų studentų darbo krūvis. Siekdamas užtikrinti programos kokybę, fakultetas neturėtų mažinti praktinio darbo su pacientais apimčių, taip pat reikėtų apsvarstyti galimybę dar metams pratęsti studijų turinį. Pratęstų studijų laikotarpiu, atliekant praktiką šeštaisiais metais, galėtų būti daugiau dėmesio skiriama moksliniams tyrimams ir pacientų gydymui.

Bendras programos dėstytojų skaičius atitinka dabartinius Lietuvos Respublikos darbo kodekso reikalavimus. Studijų programą teikia personalas, atitinkantis teisės aktų reikalavimus. Dėstančiojo personalo kvalifikacija ir skaičius yra tinkamas ir leidžia užtikrinti studijų rezultatus.

Dėstymo metodai ir turinys yra pakankamas norint sėkmingai siekti programos tikslų ir rezultatų. Tačiau akademinio personalo darbo krūvis yra itin didelis ir panašu, kad reikėtų suteikti daugiau laiko dėstytojų įgūdžiams tobulinti arba mokslinių tyrimų projektams įgyvendinti. Didesnis dėmesys, skiriamas klinikinių dėstytojų tobulinimosi strategijai įgyvendinti, taip pat kursams apie švietimo principus ir aktyviojo mokymosi metodus, pagerintų situaciją.

Infrastruktūra, įskaitant galvos fantomus ir odontologines kėdes, iš esmės yra tinkama Odontologijos studijų programai vykdyti. Po paskutiniojo išorės vertinimo buvo nupirka nauja įranga ir padidintas bendras darbo vietų skaičius. Taip pat buvo sumažintas studentų skaičius, o pamaininio darbo sistema nuo pirmadienio iki šeštadienio (nuo 8 iki 20 val.) leidžia studentų grupėms (daugiausia 20-iai studentų) daugiau valandų dirbti su pacientais. Auditorijos, ypač biblioteka, yra gerai įrengtos, jose visi gali naudotis internetu prieiga. Šalia bibliotekos pastatytas naujas mokslinių tyrimų pastatas, kuriame ateityje bus galima vykdyti tolesnius mokslinių tyrimų projektus.

Tačiau tai, kad studijos vyksta skirtingose klinikose, itin komplikuoja klinikinio darbo integravimą. Ekspertų grupė, siekdama, kad studijų programa būtų vykdoma pagal Europos standartus, pataria universitetui ilguoju laikotarpiu pastatyti naują Odontologijos kliniką ir sujungti visas klinikas.

Studentai yra gabūs ir darbštūs, labai motyvuoti bei nuolat domisi, kaip galėtų tobulinti savo gebėjimus. Darbdaviai apskritai yra patenkinti absolventais, tačiau tiek studentai, tiek darbdaviai pageidautų daugiau klinikinės praktikos.

Ekspertų grupė teigiamai vertina studentų mokymo sistemą, kai pirmaisiais metais studentams iš vyresniųjų kursų studentų paskiriamas kuratorius, kuris padeda lengviau prisitaikyti prie studijų proceso ir supažindina su miestu, gyvenimo sąlygomis, tradicijomis, studentų organizacijomis ir kt. Studentai ir akademinis personalas veiksmingai bendradarbiauja. Apskritai studijos organizuojamos taip, kad būtų galima lengviau siekti studijų rezultatų ir studentai priprastų prie būsimo darbo.

Aiškiai apibūdinama atsakomybė už Odontologijos studijų programos įgyvendinimą. Atsakomybė už specialiąsias užduotis, tokias kaip inovacijos ir programos tobulinimas, tenka fakulteto Studijų programos komitetui (SPK). Tačiau ekspertų grupė, siekdama, kad ateityje būtų tobulinamas visas kokybės gerinimo procesas, skatina užtikrinti atsakomybę už ĮS rengimą ir koordinavimą. Stebint programą surinkti duomenys dažniausiai yra susiję su laipsni teikiančiomis programomis, studentų ir dėstytojų judumo statistika, studentų akademiniais pasiekimais ir kt. Šiuos duomenis analizuoja SPK ir naudoja kokybei gerinti, taip pat jie skelbiami universiteto svetainėje.

Ekspertų grupė dėkoja universitetui, visam personalui ir studentams, su kuriais teko susitikti per vizitą, už atvirumą, įsipareigojimą, entuziazmą ir pastangas gerinti Odontologijos studijų programą.

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III. REKOMENDACIJOS

1. Siekiant pagerinti visą tobulinimosi procesą, ateityje įsivertinimo suvestinę tobulinti pagal gaires ir itin koreguoti jos kokybę. Užtikrinti atsakomybę už ĮS parengimą ir koordinavimą.
2. Siekiant atitikti tarptautinius standartus, oficialų studijų programos pavadinimą anglų kalba Odontology pakeisti į Dentistry.
3. Keisti diplominių darbų struktūrą (apie 20–30 ECTS kreditų), kad ji atitiktų panašių Europos Bendrijos programų struktūrą.
4. Nuo pat pirmųjų metų studentai turėtų studijuoti ir praktikuoti klinikinės odontologijos srityje (pvz., odontologijos medžiagos, ar mokytis, kaip teikti informaciją apie burnos higieną).
5. Programos komandai kartu su odontologais higienistais ir dantų technikais apsvarstyti galimybę įgyvendinti tarpprofesinį mokymą.
6. Ateityje numatyti įvesti odontologijos specialybę ir daktaro laipsnio modelius ir visa tai įtraukti į naujų odontologijos klinikos patalpų planą ateinančiais metais.
7. Ekspertai, siekdami, kad studijų programą būtų galima vykdyti pagal Europos standartus, pataria universitetui ilguoju laikotarpiu pastatyti naują odontologijos kliniką ir sujungti visas klinikas.
8. Įsteigti kliniką, kurioje visi studentai be atrankos turėtų galimybę nustatyti pradinę diagnozę ir planuoti gydymo procesus, tokiu būdu suteikiant jiems daugiau pasitikėjimo savimi ir leidžiant pasirengti bendrajai odontologijos praktikai.

9. Klinikiniams dėstytojams sukurti personalo tobulinimosi strategiją, kurioje būtų galima mokytis ugdymo principų ir aktyviojo mokymosi metodų.
10. Į bendruomenę labiau integruoti užsienio studentus.

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Paslaugos teikėjas patvirtina, jog yra susipažinęs su Lietuvos Respublikos baudžiamojo kodekso 235 straipsnio, numatančio atsakomybę už melagingą ar žinomai neteisingai atliktą vertimą, reikalavimais.

Vertėjos rekvizitai (vardas, pavardė, parašas)