



STUDIJŲ KOKYBĖS VERTINIMO CENTRAS

KLAIPĖDOS UNIVERSITETO
STUDIJŲ PROGRAMOS *BIOLOGIJA*
(*valstybinis kodas – 612C10002*)
VERTINIMO IŠVADOS

EVALUATION REPORT
OF *BIOLOGY* (*state code - 612C10002*)
STUDY PROGRAMME
at KLAIPEDA UNIVERSITY

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6. **Inga Kalpakovaitė**, *students' representative*

Išvados parengtos anglų kalba
Report language – English

Vilnius
2014

DUOMENYS APIE ĮVERTINTĄ PROGRAMĄ

Studijų programos pavadinimas	Biologija
Valstybinis kodas	612C10002
Studijų sritis	Biomedicinos mokslai
Studijų kryptis	Biologija
Studijų programos rūšis	Universitetinės studijos
Studijų pakopa	Pirmoji
Studijų forma (trukmė metais)	Nuolatinė (4)
Studijų programos apimtis kreditais	240
Suteikiamas laipsnis ir (ar) profesinė kvalifikacija	Biologijos bakalauras
Studijų programos įregistravimo data	1997-05-19

INFORMATION ON EVALUATED STUDY PROGRAMME

Title of the study programme	Biology
State code	612C10002
Study area	Biomedical sciences
Study field	Biology
Type of the study programme	University studies
Study cycle	First
Study mode (length in years)	Full-time (4)
Volume of the study programme in credits	240
Degree and (or) professional qualifications awarded	Bachelor of Biology
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	H-indexes of the staff teaching in the programme (table) (EN)
2	Qualification requirements for teaching staff positions set by Klaipeda University (LT)
3	Regulations on the performance assessment of the pedagogical and research staff, and on the order of organising open competitions at Klaipeda University (LT)

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

The Biology undergraduate (Bachelor's) studies are concentrated within the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics of The Klaipeda University. The University itself (founded in 1990) is involved in various studies being taught by 528 teaching staff. The Department of Biology was founded in 1996 and is directly responsible for the study programme being evaluated. The programme was created and started in 1997. In the Lithuanian higher education system, the Klaipeda University is specialized in preparation of maritime professionals first at the national level and lately within the European Union. The programme is designed to prepare qualified professionals - biologists necessary for development of the West Lithuanian coastal region's and the whole country's science and economics.

The Biology Department keeps internal and external relations to various institutions within Lithuania and abroad. Among others they closely collaborate with Lithuanian Environmental Ministry, Marine Research Departments, Environmental Protection Agency, Fisheries Service under the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Lithuania, Institute of Ecology of Nature Research Centre, Seaside Regional Park, Kursiu Nerija National Park and Lithuanian Sea Museum. Fisheries Service under the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Lithuania, Lithuanian Environmental Protection Agency, Marine Research Department support the need and realization of this Programme in the western Lithuania. According to the self-evaluation report, these organizations are the main employers and are interested in biology specialists.

1.4. The Review Team

The review team was composed according to the *Description of experts' recruitment*, approved by order No 1-55 of 19 March 2007 of the Director of the Centre for Quality Assessment in Higher Education, as amended on 11 November 2011. The team conducted the Review Visit to Klaipeda University on Wednesday 8th October 2014.

- 1. Dr. Scient Trine Johansen Meza (team leader)**, *Assistant Deputy Director General, Department of Quality Assurance, Norwegian Agency for Quality Assurance in Education, Norway*
- 2. Prof. Dr. Borut Bohanec**, *Biotechnical Faculty, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia*
- 3. Prof. Dr. Maris Klavins**, *Department of Environmental sciences, University of Latvia, Latvia*
- 4. Prof. Dr. Jacques J.M. van Alphen**, *Institute for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Dynamics at the University of Amsterdam and the Netherlands Centre for Biodiversity, Netherlands*
- 5. Prof. Sigitas Podėnas**, *Head of the Laboratory of Entomology, Nature Research Centre, Vilnius, Lithuania*
- 6. Inga Kalpakovaitė (student representative)**, *graduate of Vilnius University, Faculty of Natural Sciences, Lithuania*

II. PROGRAMME ANALYSIS

2.1. Programme aims and learning outcomes

The programme aims and learning outcomes are publicly available in Lithuanian language on <http://www.ku.lt/gmmf/struktura/katedros/biologijos-ir-ekologijos-katedra/studijos-2/biologijos-bakalauro-studiju-programa/>. Data provided to review team in Annex 5, p. 2-10, gives similar information to the data provided on the internet. Generally, the Bachelors programme of Biology is well defined. Specific orientation towards marine biology is reasonable taking in to account the specific needs of the country and labour market. This specialization is in accordance with KU Strategic Plan to 2020 aiming to prepare qualified biologists for development of West Lithuanian coastal regions. The senate of KU also established KU Marine Science and Technology Center. These activities also include development of the Laboratory of the Fishery and Aquaculture. To achieve appropriate learning outcomes students first pass several fundamental subjects typical for studies of biology, but later their studies are focused on more specific targets and are also research oriented. Within general programme subjects related to maritime studies are Hydrobiology, Aquatic Insect Biology and Aquatic Biogeography.

We found it very promising that the well-equipped laboratories of the Research centre are available for students. Projects of international value specific to marine studies such as biodiversity of invasive species, species structure of mussel communities, research of salmon population genetics being performed within PROTEUS or BONUS framework are undertaken at the university.

Programme aims and learning outcomes are extensively considered within the self-evaluation report (SER). The major mission of this Bachelors programme is to educate students of general biological sciences including scientific research in the field of life sciences.

According to SER graduates can be employed as researchers at various institutions and companies. Part of the students is also targeted at the blue biotechnology niche, which is starting in Lithuania and they perform their Bachelor's thesis using this appropriate infrastructure.

In general, the name of the programme and its learning outcomes, content and the qualifications offered are compatible with each other. It became evident from the meetings with the graduates and stakeholders that there is a need for such graduates of this program at the labour market and programme aims and learning outcomes are based on those needs. Although graduates stated that competition among other life sciences programmes for jobs is at the high level. About half of the graduates are working in the field.

2.2. Curriculum design

The curriculum design of the bachelor study programme *Biology* complies with the general requirements of the principal legal acts governing studies - the Law on Higher Education and Research of the Republic of Lithuania. The study programme includes all major biological subjects, and the review panel considers it very positive that practical work is given a substantial volume: 8 credits for algology, mycology and invertebrate zoology, in 2nd semester and 4 credits on vascular plants and vertebrate zoology in 4th semester. Special biology practice is also a part of the curriculum in 6th semester with 6 credits. The existing programme does not provide summer training, an option of summer practise was proposed by alumni, since so far, practice in external institution is not a part of a programme.

The study programme was established in 1997 and got positive assessment at the same year. The programme duration is four years and it is based on 240 ECTS credits (30 in each semester). The programme has been changed for study years 2007/2008, in 2010/2011 and in 2013/2014. The review team believes that these changes were done in a positive way, since several general subjects covering social sciences were recently substituted by subjects essential for biological education. For instance, the curriculum for 2007/2008 contained Latin language, Elective humanities subject, Science history and Professional speech, but in curriculum of 2013/2014 only Latin language and Philosophy were mandatory, while Professional speech as facultative. In the curriculum of 2013/2014 students pass 5 semesters and then they have two options from the sixth semester onwards, Biology and Ichthyology as a specialisation which both lasts for three additional semesters. Within each semester students obtain 30 ECTS credits. Elective subjects cover only 5% (12 credits) of the programme, what is insufficient according to Bologna study requirements. It is however in accordance with existing Lithuanian legislation of Higher education.

The content of subjects is in line with the learning outcomes, as defined in the Self-evaluation report p. 8. Learning outcomes are focused on obtaining sufficient knowledge of biology to practical and professional activity in marine oriented environment. Subject topics cover knowledge that is usual for studies of biology and are at the same time specific enough for additional specialization in ichthyology. For instance General genetics is covered in both specializations, while specific subjects like Evolution theory/Fish systematics are in appropriate specializations. As explained in Self-evaluation report p. 6-7 focus of the studies in this programme is on blue biotechnology, studies of biodiversity of invasive species and marine communities, of mussel communities and on salmon population genetics.

The study programme does follow latest achievements in science but as it was recognised by the Faculty, due to limitations some parts are not performed optimally. Such is the case for instance in molecular biology in which practical work is currently limited. Faculty is already solving the problem by building a Laboratory complex (Valley), which is supposed to be operational in 2015.

The feedback mechanisms, the supervision and quality assurance of practical work outside the University needs to be addressed.

In respect to low number of students during last years and the fact that general biology is taught also at other universities in Lithuania an obvious option is that at Klaipeda University only a more specialized programme of ichthyology remains as more appropriate. We propose that faculty takes this option in to consideration.

Group of experts would like to stress its strong support to the management's efforts to reduce the length of the study program of study from 4 to 3.5 years. Yet from European perspective it seems more appropriate that study would be shortened to 3 years in order to be comparable to the situation in the vast majority of comparable studies of biology within the EU. Of course we understood that within the current legal framework in Lithuania is not yet possible.

2.3. Teaching staff

The staff in the programme meets the legal requirements for a Bachelor programme and has a wealth of experience in teaching in high education, provided in The Descriptor of General Requirements for Bachelor Study Programmes. According to data provided, teaching staff is composed of 6 professors (18 %), 9 associated professors (27 %), 9 lecturers with PhD (27 %), 3 lecturers (9 %) and 5 assistants (3 of them are PhD students) (15 %) and they are involved in the preparation of the study modules and teaching. The scientific activity of the staff is relevant to their teaching subjects. About 52 % of main teachers in study programme have 10 or more years of academic experience and 64 % possess valuable practical experience. Surprisingly, only two technicians (1 staff unit) are employed for technical assistance, and one secretary keeps documentations of the Bachelor programme of *Biology*.

Data are presented for 38 staff members. With some exceptions (four lecturers being 68, 72, 72 and 74 years old) teaching staff is at proper age for teachers in higher education. During the site-visit the administration assured the external evaluation team that this problem was already solved

with retirements and substitutions with younger colleagues. Analysis of internationally recognized performance mainly through publications in higher ranking scientific journals (Annex 3) with SCI IF factors or valuable monographs shows a generally good performance although variation among professional qualities of staff is evident. This was clearly visible from obtained Hirsch index data of teaching staff, differences among them was very high ranging from 0 to 14. On the other hand it is positive that teaching staff is actively involved in various research programs, while international projects are still at relatively low level. Publications of teaching staff are closely related to their teaching specialties therefore we can expect optimal learning outcomes of the students. Individual professional career development lacks more systematic approach. Part of this problem might be also unusually high (from European perspective) teaching load, since contact hours, required by law are 2-3 times higher as in majority of EU countries.

More efforts should be made that all the teachers get opportunity to practice English. There is a concern about the insufficiently developed knowledge and skills of foreign languages (English) particularly among older staff members. One of such possibilities is the attendance of international conferences what should therefore be encouraged.

2.4. Facilities and learning resources

The self-evaluation report provided comprehensive information about the facilities (equipment, class rooms, library, laboratories, and computer rooms). During the site visit the review panel was given the chance to visit a number of facilities which are used for teaching and research. The general impression was that great efforts had been taken to improve the facilities during the recent years.

Studies mainly take place at the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics of Klaipeda University, the Faculty building is in the former military campus, reconstructed at 1992–1993. Around 20 rooms are used for classes at the building of the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics of Klaipeda University. Students of the *Biology* Bachelor Programme can also use other facilities for practical training including Study laboratories of the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, scientific laboratories of the KU Marine Science and Technology Centre: Marine Ecosystems and Marine Chemistry, Laboratory of Plant Physiology at the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics. SER also mentioned sail training vessels „Brabander“ and yacht „Odisėja“. However, not all students were able to attend such trainings. Several laboratories belonging to other institutions such as Laboratory of Hydrobiological

Research (Vente Village, Šilutė District Municipality), Laboratory of the Division of the Fisheries Research and Science, Fisheries Service under the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Lithuania and their research vessel „Darius“, Laboratories of Marine Research Department of the Environmental Protection Agency and their research vessel „Vėjūnas“ were listed in reports but were also not found to be systematically used by students.

Study auditoriums and laboratories of the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics were recently renewed. New multimedia projectors, computers and appropriate software are installed in all lecture rooms of the Faculty.

According to provided data and information gathered during the site visit students get access to textbooks, books, periodicals, databases and biological exposition. General data are provided on University Library level. Computers are equipped with adequate software and databases. During the site-visit the availability of databases was discussed and tested. Because decisions on literature purchase are made centrally for all Lithuanian Universities (using EU development funds), situation in Klaipeda university is not unique. Major databases and periodicals are available, with Web of Science being only in test option during our visit.

2.5. Study process and students' performance assessment

The admission requirements are performed by »Joint enrolment regulations of 21 Lithuanian Universities, Academies and a number of Colleges«. Persons are enrolled on the basis of points, received in competition. Entrance conditions are indicated in Klaipeda University website (http://www.ku.lt/wpcontent/uploads/2014/01/2014_pirm_konk_bal_sand_2014-01-17.pdf).

Applicants with better grades can claim to the state funded positions, others need to claim to the not funded position. No additional entrance examinations required.

For the support of students, several activities are undertaken both at administrative level and through Students union; these activities include information about possibilities to get a scholarship.

Students are encouraged to participate in the research. As discussed in previous sections students got possibilities to be involved in the research projects, also the analysis of bachelor theses during the site-visit to some extent confirmed the situation. The number of students enrolled in Bachelor's programme of *Biology* is rather low. From 2009 to 2013 a total of only 52 students graduated the study programme. Number of accepted students was decreasing since 2009 but is now stabilized. There were 12 students enrolled in 2009/10, 14 in 2010/11, 10 in 2011/12, 5 in 2012/13 and 5 in 2013/14. Faculty is aware of this problem. As stated in SER *Critically low number of students affected the lack of state-funded places in the last 2 years and not all willing*

to study can pay full study price. During interviews we were told that this year all the students are self-financed. Although it is clear that very small course sizes (even just 3 students per year) enable good contacts between students and teaching staff this justification is rather problematic. In response to the situation the university has initiated promotion of the *Biology* study programme aiming to attract prospective Biology students by organizing a Marine Biology section within the KU School of Young Researchers. However it was also recognised by the self-evaluation team that number of students is still critically low.

Generally organization of the study process is adequate, also the rules and terms of exam session. Students have opportunities to participate in student mobility programmes mainly through bilateral agreements with faculties from Belgium, Spain, Turkey and Denmark, but we believe that exchange should be further encouraged. The review team had the chance to familiarize with the bachelor theses, which are in general well prepared. Topic of the final theses do cover a wide range from the studies of marine and river wildlife to for instance the cytogenetics of grass species or the influence of meteorological conditions to spread of diseases and pests to woody plants. Some of them cite relatively old references, this should be improved by stimulation of the use of up to date databases and original references.

Professional activities of the graduates of bachelor studies are quite diverse. Among 28 respondents to the questionnaire (graduated during last 5 years) half of them were employed in the field, 77% continues their studies in the second cycle in KU as well as in other Universities in Lithuania or abroad – University of Leuven, Vilnius university, Vytautas Magnus university, Siauliai university, Lithuanian university of educational sciences. Thus, the expectations of programme providers' are met.

2.6. Programme management

In relation to the responsibilities for decisions and monitoring of the implementation of the programme, the Self-Evaluation Report states that study programme is managed at three levels. At the department level, the Head of Department is directly responsible for programme implementation and administration. At the Faculty level, the Attestation Commission for the assessment of the study programmes of the Biomedical sciences field approves the programme subjects and modules and makes proposals for programme corrections. At the University level the Study department of KU provides operative management decisions. At University level quality control department was established which organizes and coordinates the implementation of quality, monitoring, internal audits and quality assurance. At the end of each semester,

students are offered the questionnaire for assessment of teaching quality. The results are part of (re)election procedure for all teaching staff.

The outcomes of internal and external evaluations of the programme are used for the improvement of the programme. Generalized results of student's surveys, approved by rector, are available on internet, data are collected and analysed. It needs to be determined, how the outcomes were implemented into changes of the programme that happened during last years.

We acknowledge an initiative of alumni that thematic lectures should be promoted, and that invited specialists from outside of the University might be involved in such activities.

The internal quality assurance measures are taken place and look efficient. We stressed a need for constant evaluation activities as a part of decision making process related to optimal performance of the institution.

III. RECOMMENDATIONS

1. We would highly recommend that the proposed shortening of Bachelor program to 3,5 years is accepted as proposed by academic staff.
2. Discuss further options for students practise in external institutions.
3. Due to low number of enrolled students we strongly support all further activities related to attraction of prospective students.
4. Continue work with renewal of the infrastructure to get up to date laboratory equipment and availability of literature and relevant databases.
5. Promote Erasmus exchange of teachers and students.
6. Improve teacher's foreign language skills, stimulate more publications in English.
7. Accept the proposal of alumni to organise the thematic lectures and invite specialists from outside of the University.
8. Establish a constant self-evaluation procedure to monitor weaknesses and analyse their improvements on a yearly basis.

IV. SUMMARY

The major mission of Bachelors programme *Biology* at Klaipeda University is to educate students of general biological sciences including 'blue' biotechnology with optional specialization in ichthyology. Specific orientation of learning outcomes towards marine biology is reasonable taking in to account the specific needs of the country and labour market. The name of the programme and its learning outcomes, content and the qualifications offered are compatible with each other.

The documents and infrastructure tour was a good basis for the review teams' understanding of the bachelor degree programme in *Biology*. This programme has been changed for study years 2007/2008, in 2010/2011 and in 2013/2014, and the current version reflects several improvements. We strongly support the intentions of administration to shorten the duration of studies to 3.5 years as being more comparable to similar programmes in other EU countries. Similarly, in comparison to situation in Europe we found contact hours of teaching staff unusually high but legally binding.

The number (38) and qualifications of the teaching staff meets applicable legal requirements. During our visit we have been informed of recent restructure achieved with retirements and new employments, although most of them were trained at the same University. Communication in English is still a problem particularly among older staff members. Further internationalisation of staff and students should be encouraged.

The infrastructure is sufficient for teaching and research and student laboratories are well equipped. We believe that the university will be able to upgrade existing library with additional PCs in a reading room as planned for 2014. Major databases and periodicals are available, with Web of Science being only in test option during our visit.

Adverse trends of the general demographic situation and in particular student fees decreased the student enrolment during last five years but situation was recently improved, largely due to active promotion of the study programme. We propose that one option is a limitation to marine biology as unique in Lithuania.

The Internal quality assurance is good and includes the feedback system, but we recommend it to be done in more formal way.

It was evident from the meetings with alumni and stakeholders that there is a need for graduates of this programme at the labour market although competition with other life sciences programmes for jobs is high. Part of this problem is reflected in relatively large proportion of students entering master studies. Further active involvement of employers and other stakeholders into programmes functioning and structure is recommended.

V. GENERAL ASSESSMENT

The study programme *Biology* (state code - 612C10002) at Klapeida University 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	4
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:	19

*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:	Prof. dr. Trine Johansen Meza
Grupės nariai: Team members:	Prof. dr. Maris Klavins
	Prof. dr. Borut Bohanec
	Prof. dr. Jacques van Alphen
	Prof. dr. Sigitas Podėnas
	Inga Kalpakovaitė

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V. APIBENDRINAMASIS ĮVERTINIMAS

Klaipėdos universiteto studijų programa *Biologija* (valstybinis kodas – 612C10002) vertinama teigiamai.

Eil. Nr.	Vertinimo sritis	Srities įvertinimas, balais*
1.	Programos tikslai ir numatomi studijų rezultatai	4
2.	Programos sandara	3
3.	Personalas	3
4.	Materialieji ištekliai	3
5.	Studijų eiga ir jos vertinimas	3
6.	Programos vadyba	3
	Iš viso:	19

* 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)

<...>

IV. SANTRAUKA

Pagrindinė Klaipėdos universitete vykdomos bakalauro studijų programos *Biologija* misija yra ugdyti studentus bendrųjų biologijos mokslų srityje, įskaitant mėlynąją biotechnologiją (su laisvai pasirenkama ichtiologijos specializacija). Specialus numatomų studijų rezultatų orientavimas į jūrinę biologiją yra pagrįstas konkrečiais šalies ir darbo rinkos poreikiais. Programos pavadinimas, numatomi studijų rezultatai, programos turinys ir suteikiama kvalifikacija dera tarpusavyje.

Pateikti dokumentai ir infrastruktūros apžiūra buvo geras pagrindas vertinimo grupei susipažinti su bakalauro studijų programa *Biologija*. 2007–2008, 2010–2011 ir 2013–2014 mokslo metais ši programa buvo pakeista, ir kai kurie patobulinimai atsispindi dabartiniame jos variante. Mes tvirtai palaikome administracijos ketinimus sutrumpinti studijas iki 3,5 metų, kad šią programą būtų galima lengviau palyginti su kitose ES valstybėse vykdomomis panašiomis programomis. Be to, palyginti su padėtimi Europoje, dėstytojų kontaktinių valandų skaičius yra neįprastai didelis, nors teisiškai privalomas.

Dėstytojų skaičius (38) ir kvalifikacija atitinka galiojančius teisės aktus. Vizito metu mums buvo pranešta, kad neseniai įvyko restruktūrizacija, susijusi su išėjimu į pensiją ir naujų darbuotojų priėmimu, kurių daugelis įgijo išsilavinimą tame pačiame universitete. Bendravimas anglų kalba (ypač vyresnio amžiaus dėstytojų) vis dar yra problemiškas. Reikėtų toliau didinti dėstytojų ir studentų tarptautiškumą.

Mokymui ir tyrimams skirtos infrastruktūros pakanka, studentų laboratorijos gerai įrengtos. Manome, kad universitetas įstengs, kaip planuojama, 2014 m. esamos bibliotekos skaitykloje įrengti daugiau asmeninių kompiuterių. Yra galimybė naudotis svarbiausiomis duomenų bazėmis ir periodiniais leidiniais, o *Web of Science* duomenų bazės vykstant vizitui dar tik buvo išbandomos.

Dėl neigiamų bendrosios demografinės padėties tendencijų, ypač dėl studentų mokesčio už mokslą, pastaruosius penkerius metus mažėjo studentų skaičius, bet paskutiniu metu padėtis pagerėjo – tai lėmė aktyvi studijų programos reklama. Šioje studijų programoje siūlome, kaip vieną iš galimybių, apsiriboti jūrine biologija, tada ji būtų vienintelė tokia programa Lietuvoje.

Vidinis kokybės užtikrinimas vykdomas tinkamai, jis apima grįžtamojo ryšio sistemą, tačiau rekomenduojame ją padaryti formalesnę.

Per susitikimus su alumnais ir socialiniais dalininkais paaiškėjo, kad šios programos absolventai turi paklausą darbo rinkoje, nors yra didelė konkurencija su kitomis gyvosios gamtos mokslų programomis dėl darbo vietų. Iš dalies ši problema atsispindi tame, jog daug studentų toliau tęsia studijas magistrantūroje. Rekomenduojama, kad darbdaviai ir kiti socialiniai dalininkai ir toliau aktyviai dalyvautų programos vykdymo ir tolesnio formavimo procese.

<...>

III. REKOMENDACIJOS

1. Labai rekomenduotume pritarti akademinio personalo pasiūlymui sutrumpinti bakalauro programą iki 3,5 metų.
2. Aptarti tolesnes studentų praktikos išorės institucijose galimybes.
3. Kadangi įstojusių studentų skaičius mažas, primygtinai rekomenduojame toliau skatinti visokeriopą veiklą, padedančią pritraukti būsimus studentus.
4. Ir toliau gerinti infrastruktūrą, įsigyti modernios laboratorinės įrangos ir literatūros bei aktualių duomenų bazių.
5. Skatinti dėstytojų ir studentų mainus pagal *Erasmus* mainų programą.
6. Gerinti dėstytojų užsienio kalbų įgūdžius, skatinti skelbti daugiau publikacijų anglų kalba.

7. Priimti alumnų pasiūlymą organizuoti temines paskaitas ir kviestis specialistus iš kitų institucijų.

8. Nustatyti nuolat vykstančią (kasmetinę) savianalizės procedūrą, skirtą trūkumams kontroliuoti ir jų panaikinimo galimybėms tirti.

<...>
