



Faculty of Humanities

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Report

Meeting date 28-01-2022

Subject: Development dialogue visitation M Latin American Studies

As proposed by the degree programme, the panel discussed the following topics: research themes and student recruitment.

1. Research themes

Question programme: 'Despite its limited size, the teaching staff has been able to attend to a large range of interdisciplinary research themes. Recently, the number of students with a humanities background has increased. This has led to a need to expand the research themes to connect to a broader range of Social Sciences and Humanities fields such as cultural and media studies. What are the possible strategies we could take to attend to this new demand in the program?'

Answer panel: In the earlier discussions during the day the panel has suggested making use of tutors from other departments within the Faculty of Humanities to capitalize on their methodological expertise. In addition, the panel suggested inviting visiting scholars and guest lecturers with a humanities background. Another idea put forward was to make use of extracurricular activities, such as seminars and exhibitions aimed at civil society, to present and discuss different areas of research within the humanities with scholars in these fields. Yet a different suggestion would be to organize intra-institutional exchanges with partner departments to allow for students to enhance their knowledge in the field of humanities. An interesting partner could be Amsterdam School for Regional, Transnational and European Studies (ARTES) of the Faculty of Humanities.

For the long term a more structural and durable solution would be to recruit teaching and research staff with expertise in humanities research to the programme. Programme management could organise the dialogue between research in the humanities and research in social sciences in order to try and bridge the differences between research in these two disciplines.

2. Student Recruitment

Question programme: 'The interest in the MLAS programme has significantly increased over the last couple of years. The integration of the programme in the Faculty PR strategy and the reduction to 60ECs probably plays a role in this trend. We have been successful to attract students from Latin America (half of the group). Our ambition is to attract more European students. What would the panel's advice be to reach out to potential students in Europe?'

Answer panel: The panel suggested using EU-funded mobility grants to cooperate with partners particularly in Central and Eastern Europe, as well as the global South. Spanish and Portuguese students in particular could be interested in the programme as it could increase their chances of enrolling in a PhD programme.

Visiting fellows were mentioned as another resource to tap into and invite to spread information about the programme at their home institutions. Partner institutions who send their students on exchange could also be approached with the request to distribute promotional materials about the programme. Another suggestion put forth was to build and expand cooperation with other organisations on EU-level akin to the programme's cooperation with the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Last but not least, alumni were seen as a potential resource. Alumni could be asked to spread information about the programme within their own networks.