

Management decision regarding reform of supplementary subjects at the Faculty of Arts

Implementation of the reform process

In connection with the conclusion of our review of degree programmes, it was decided that the faculty management team should review the range of our supplementary subjects once a year. This decision had a negative consequence: the gradual adjustment of supplementary subjects to match a declining student population renders any reductions arbitrary because they will always be a random product of the number of students applying in the year in question. As a result, we need a more strategic and focused approach to our supplementary subjects, based on a decision regarding their function in our current Bachelor's degree programmes. So the faculty management team has decided to launch a reform process with a view to creating a new portfolio of supplementary subjects (following the necessary discussions at the faculty).

The new supplementary subjects should be ready by the autumn semester of 2020. Based on the assumption that subsidiary subjects and supplementary subjects should serve two different purposes, the process will involve a basic split between subsidiary subjects designed for upper-secondary school teaching (90 ECTS) and ordinary supplementary subjects (45 ECTS). The reform process will only affect our supplementary subjects. It has also been decided that all the current supplementary subjects – whether they are individually designed or co-studied – will be reviewed and included in the reform.

We now have a better idea of the consequences of the government's degree programme resizing initiative, giving us a more accurate estimate of the number of students needing supplementary subjects in 2020. A total of about 600 students will need a supplementary subject. If the current pattern of applications continues, about 260 students will choose a subsidiary subject, while about 340 students can be expected to choose a supplementary subject. A number of visiting students may also choose parts of the supplementary subjects conducted in English; and some exchange students will need an additional 15 ECTS taken from supplementary subjects. In other words, the reduction in student numbers makes it necessary to reform our supplementary subjects with a view to utilising our resources as effectively as possible. The same thing applies to the other steps taken in connection with our review of degree programmes. Consequently, one of the premises involved in developing a new portfolio of supplementary subjects is that there must be at least 30 students registered for each supplementary subject. This means that we will need about 11-12 supplementary subjects. Our supplementary subjects



will therefore have to be more cross-disciplinary, so we will also be forced to abandon the dual-subject paradigm on which their current structure is based.

Finally, the faculty management team's decision means that the open market for supplementary subjects will be retained. Related subject areas could work together to define the supplementary subjects on offer, but it must still be possible for the students to choose the subjects they prefer.

An inclusive process

The reform process will make it possible to contribute to the development of the new supplementary subject portfolio in three stages. Firstly, it will be possible to take part in a discussion of the function of the new supplementary subjects. One important factor in identifying this function is that a new paradigm is required to replace the previous dual-subject paradigm. During this first part of the process, in August the vice-dean for education will present a memorandum on the new function of our supplementary subjects. It will be possible to amend and comment on this memo.

This first stage will hopefully result in final agreement on the function of our supplementary subjects; and during the second stage it will be possible to propose the specific supplementary subjects which we need to develop.

During the third stage, working groups will be set up whose task will be to provide each supplementary subject in the portfolio with its own specific content. Based on the input that has been received, the faculty management team will agree on the supplementary subjects that will be offered.

It is important to ensure that as much time as possible is set aside to finalise the content of our supplementary subjects. So the stage involving the generation of ideas will start at the same time as comments are invited on the vice-dean's proposals regarding the function of our supplementary subjects. This should ensure that ideas for new supplementary subjects will already have been presented while the task of defining their function is proceeding. The entire process will look like this:

| Date | Action | Responsibility |
|----------------------------|--|--|
| June 2018 | Decision to start reforming supplementary subjects | Faculty management team |
| August 2018 | Description of function of new supplementary subjects | Vice-dean/faculty management team |
| August 2018 – October 2018 | Comments and identifying principles of new supplementary subjects in boards of studies, degree programme boards and departments | Departments etc. |
| November 2018 | Deadline for submission of proposals for new supplementary subjects (e.g. titles, topics and subject areas) | Heads of department |
| December 2018 | Setting up working groups to develop specific proposals for supplementary subjects based on proposals | Faculty management team |
| February 2019 | Deadline for working groups: details of new supplementary subjects (including academic goals, box diagrams, qualification profiles, primary academic responsibility) | Working groups |
| March 2019 | General approval of supplementary subjects and appointment of people responsible for development with a view to drawing up academic regulations | Faculty management team |
| September 2019 | Deadline for draft academic regulations and development of programmes | People responsible for development and working groups |
| November 2019 | Approval of academic regulations | Dean |
| Until January 2020 | Ongoing task of programme development and completion of academic regulations | People responsible for development |
| February 2020 | Supplementary Subject Fair 2020 | Student Guidance and Information (VEST), and departments |
| April 2020 | Application deadline for students | Students |
| May 2020 | Decision to conduct supplementary subjects based on number of applicants | Faculty management team |
| July 2020 | Informing students about admission to supplementary subjects | Admissions |
| September 2020 | Start of new supplementary subjects | Departments |