

Course evaluation and analysis

GEOR02 Geology Master's Degree Project, 45 hp

November 2020

This course analysis was conducted in mid-October 2020, about 15 months after the previous one. A link to the questionnaire has been sent by the library to every student who has completed the LUP (Lund University Publications) web publication procedure at the end of their respective course periods. Twenty-two students have responded to the questionnaire, five who completed in 2018, five in 2019 and 12 in 2020 (due to problems with Survey & Report the present analysis includes nine answers from 2018 and 2019, which were also treated in the previous course analysis). During the period in question 32 Master's degree projects have been completed in total, yielding a response frequency of 69 %. Mean scores in the following section refers to a scale from 1 to 5, where 5 is most favourable.

Summarized comments and potential improvements:

1. The introductory information was considered as very good or excellent (mean score 4.2 as compared to 4.1 in 2019). *The course web site has been updated and an introductory meeting with all admitted students was held for the first time in late August 2020, an activity which will be repeated once per year, preferable just before the start of the autumn term when the vast majority of our degree thesis students are about to start.*
2. Although a majority of the students found it relatively easy to find a suitable project based on communication with potential supervisors (mean score 3.8 as compared to 4.3 in 2019), some respondents suggest that more project ideas are presented on our web or at regular seminars. *This has shown to be problematic for most of our teachers but from the spring term 2020 all new degree thesis projects are posted as popular science presentations on a note board by the student lunchroom, which will hopefully create inspiration and new ideas.*
3. The supervision and the department facilities (laboratories etc.) are generally highly appreciated (mean score 4.5 as compared to 4.3 in 2019), although rather large variations in supervision time seem to occur.
4. The scientific environment is highly appreciated by the students (mean score 4.7, same as 2019). *Access to office space is included in this question, and this will be given attention, not least because the students are now directed to the Geolibrary instead of our recently lost office space on level five.*
5. The personnel and other resources at the Geolibrary are highly appreciated (mean score 4.7 as compared to 4.6 in 2019).
6. The respondents are also generally very satisfied with the quality of the MSc. courses and the MSc. programme as a whole (mean score 4.3 as compared to 4.0 in 2019). However, the lack of dedicated courses in applied geology is seen as negative by some. *We will consider offering the hydrogeology course in English.*
7. The examination procedure including the oral presentation is appreciated and seems to be well functioning (mean score 4.5 as compared to 4.7 in 2019). The slight drop may be partly related to the pandemic-related change to distance-based

presentations in 2020, but several respondents noted that the Zoom-based presentations and examinations went well. ***One respondent noted that the expectations by the different members of the examination committee varied greatly, a comment that warrants discussion in the teacher's collegium.***

8. The vast majority of the respondents (91 %) considered the subject knowledge acquired within the Master's programme as fully appropriate, and the same percentage of students thought that they had got enough training in various generic skills. These results are generally the same as in 2019, although two students answered no to the latter question, most likely due to the lack of training in statistics, see below.
9. Three students bring forward the need for a course in research methods, statistics and scientific writing. ***We had such a course until about five years ago but it had to be cancelled due to limited resources. If the funding situation improves within the next few years we may be able to re-establish the course.***
10. The Master's education as a whole was given a mean score of 4.2 as compared to 4.3 in 2019.

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