

REFERAT Studienævnet for Internationale Studier d. 24-06-2024

Mødedato Mandag d. 24. juni 2024 kl. 10:00

Mødested 26.073

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Punkt 1: Members present

Beslutning

Present: Laura Horn (chair, on Teams), Line Engbo Gissel, Thomas Paster, Laust Schouenborg, Lone Riisgaard, Sofie Würtz, Sophie Annelotte Louwersheimer, Liliana Isabel Regadas Calisto. EMGS head of Study Michael Friedrich Kluth and EMGS student Ektoras Leventis were present for item 4.

Not present: Vilte Maldziute, Sune Haugbølle, Somdeep Sen, Aleksander Fløystrup.

Punkt 2: Approval of the agenda

Beslutning

Line mediated the meeting while Laura could only attend via Teams.

Due to time issues, items 10 (Course evaluations F24) and 15 (Evaluation process) are taken together.

The students informed about their wish to spend item 13 (student input) on talking about colliding exam dates.

The study board approved the agenda with the above mentioned comments.

Punkt 3: Approval of last month's minutes

Beslutning

The study board approved the minutes from the May meeting.

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Maj 24.pdf

Punkt 4: Status on EMGS

Michael Friedrich Kluth - coordinator of the European Master in Global Studies - and student of the program - Ektoras Leventis - will join us and give a status on the programme.

Beslutning

Michael Friedrich Kluth, the head of study for the European Master in Global Studies program (EMGS) gave the study board an orientation about the program, among other points:

- EMGS is anchored at Leipzig University.
- EMGS got new funding.
- London School of Economics (LSE) is not part of the program anymore due to Brexit.
- Due to high fees for non-EU students, EMGS has made scholarship grants.
- For EMGS students attending RUC, their curriculum mirrors the GDS curriculum besides having a mandatory Summer and Winter school. Michael also runs non-ECTS seminar series in Fall and Spring, respectively. 3rd semester EMGS students follow the GDS curriculum while students on other semesters of their programs have some variations.
- EMGS students are generally satisfied with the RUC activities but as some come from academic backgrounds more loaded with contact hours some feel the activity plans are a bit thin.
- Michael refers the students to the study board for daily issues.

After Michael's presentation, EMGS student Ektoras Leventis provided some additional feedback:

- Generally the EMGS students feel integrated in the GDS program. Information, e.g. exam, can be lacking, though. Michael acknowledged that it is a recurring issue.
- Project and thesis meeting can be better synchronized/coordinated between GDS and EMGS. Fall semesters work better than Spring semesters, where both project and thesis writers participate in the project semester.

The study board thanked both for the valuable input and commented that it would be beneficial to coordinate the EMGS students' placement in the GDS study environment,

Punkt 5: Number of places offered (MA)

Nomination:

The study board is asked to inform itself of the figures for number of applications, offered spots and accepted offers on ISEs MA programs.

Beslutning

The study board made the following points regarding the intake for the Fall semester:

- The study board acknowledged that they might still see some fluctuation in the numbers.
- The trend with more non-EU students continues and now have a larger impact on GDS and IPG programs than before. The study board has focus on conveying to the department leadership that this carries some issues as seen on previous semesters at the Business Administration and Leadership (BAL) program e.g. regarding study environment and exam forms. Learning from the BAL program, there will be focus on communicating the study practices in the beginning of the semester and being more "sink or swim" regarding students' abilities to live up to the programs' academic standards.
- The largest nationality besides Danish in both the GDS and IPG intake are Bangladeshi, which mirrors a broader global trend, where students from South Asia applies to foreign universities.
- The study board highlighted that it would like to see non-EU students as part of the study board as this would strengthen the work with integrating them on the programs considerably, e.g. with establishing a mentorship program.

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Ansøgningstal, tilbud og ja-tak, 2024, AWVC 17.6.24.docx

Punkt 6: Oral orientations

Oral orientations

- Status on the master reform

Beslutning

Laura conveyed that there is stil no concrete update on the MA reform.

Punkt 7: Approval of new course on offer F25

Due to Milans departure a slot for an advanced study course in spring 2025 has opened up. Klaas Dykmann has offered up a course.

The board has received a titel and a short overall description in order to be able to approve the course (attached). A more thorough description will follow in august.

Nomination: The board is asked to decide on whether the proposed course can be offered in spring 2025.

Beslutning

The study board discussed the suggestion with offering the course *Latin America in the world - Regional integration, Interregionalism, and the sino-American competition* in the Spring semester 2025. The creation of the course is a response to continuing IPG student feedback on having more non-western themes. The course will be offered to both GDS and IPG.

The study board welcomed the suggestion and made the points that there should be 12 lectures instead of 13 as per the guidelines for 10 ECTS Advanced Study courses, and that it will take a close look on the sign up numbers for the course at a later point.

Decision: The study board approved the suggestion to offer the course.

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Latin America in the world.docx

Punkt 8: Meeting dates E24

Nomination:

The board is asked to bring their updated calendars and decide on meeting dates after the summer break. Signe has had a look in peoples outlook calendars and suggest the following dates:

- August - Wednesday the 28th of August 09:00-11:30 or 12:30-15:00
- September - Wednesday the 25th of September 09:00-11:30
- October - Monday the 28th of October 10:00-12:30
- November - Wednesday the 27th of November 09:00-11:30
- December - Monday the 16th of December 09:00-11:30
- January - Wednesday the 29th of January 09:00-11:30

Beslutning

The study board made the comment that the August meeting would preferably be held in the morning.

Decision: The study board approved the suggestions.

Punkt 9: Delegation of decision making concerning internship contracts

Nomination:

The board is asked to decide whether the approval of internship contracts can be delegated to the internship coordinators of the programmes.

Background:

At the moment the internship coordinator makes a nomination/evaluation of the contract which is then forwarded to the chair of the study board for official approval. Often times the chair will have no objections, which means that the process just adds extra work to the administration, chair and longer waiting time for the students. It is therefore proposed to delegate the decision to the internship coordinator - as is already the process in other study boards. In cases where there is any doubt, the contracts should still be brought to the chair.

Beslutning

The study board went through the recommendation to delegate the approval of internship contracts to the internship coordinators of the programs.

Decision: The study board approved the recommendation on the condition that the administration checks the formalities, while the coordinator checks the academic content of the internship.

Punkt 10: Lukket

Punkt 11: IPG - mandatory courses before internship

Nomination:

The board is asked to discuss whether a study regulation change should be made in order to make it mandatory to have completed and passed all three mandatory courses on IPG before being able to do an internship.

Background:

It was brought to our attention from the study administration, that the study.ruc.dk pages for IPG internship said that the students have to have had completed the mandatory courses on IPG before being able to do an internship. This is not written in the study regulation of the program and thus we cannot write it on study or ask this of our students. The board has previously discussed this on the november 2023 meeting and decided against making this change.

The immediate solution to the current problem with study.ruc.dk was to change the wording to it being a "strong recommendation" from the head of studies, but the Head of Studies on IPG urged us to put it up for discussion in the study board again, as was also the conclusion of the november 2023 discussion of the study board.

Laust will motivate the suggestion orally on the meeting but a few pros and cons will be mentioned here:

- **Pros:** The internship should be on the 3. semester as the students will have the most experience and tools available to test in an internship at this point in the educational process.
- **Cons:** It might result in fewer students getting to do an internship. This might be bad for the transition rate into jobs after graduation, which is a strategic focus point of RUC. By tying the internship to the third semester you also force the students to choose between internship and exchange, as exchange is also recommended on this semester and it is difficult to plan earlier due to the heavy and administrative planning process with early deadlines from the administration.

Beslutning

The study board discussed whether to implement a study regulation change that it should be mandatory to have passed all three mandatory IPG courses on IPG before being able to do an internship.

Laust provided some background, e.g., that at present the students can do internship on both either 2nd or 3rd semester. The recommended study plan states that the students do internship/study abroad in the 3rd semester, while Policy Analysis is in 2nd semester. He recommended that the students only should be able to do internships on 3rd semester and need to have passed the mandatory courses.

The study board was generally positive on making some requirements for having finished activities before doing an internship and came up with the following suggestions:

- There can be legitimate reasons and for not having completed all three mandatory courses as well as flexibility issues in upholding this requirement, e.g. regarding the international students who have more struggles generally regarding employment.. Lesser requirements on having passed one or two mandatory courses were suggested.
- A rule about no internships in the 1st semester and/or only in the second year of the MA.
- ECTS based requirement with having passed a certain amount of ECTS, e.g. 10 ECTS points.

Follow up: Signe and Laura follows up whether the models are feasible.

Decision: The study board are positive in making some restrictions after making sure which models are doable.

Punkt 12: Elective courses E24

Nomination:

The study board is asked to look at the number of students who registered for the methods and specialization courses and discuss if there is not too many or too few students on each.

As the registration period just finished on the 15th of june, we have not received the numbers yet, but they will be sent out as soon as we have them.

Beslutning

The study board approved the attached course offer for Fall semester 2024.

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Sign-up-Fall-2024.xlsx

Punkt 13: Students Item

Beslutning

A student representative raised the issue of having no supervisors from the International Studies subject model (IS) supervising a specific IS BA project. Both supervisor and co-supervisor were both from Business Studies (2nd subject). Supervision and exam reflected that IS was not present.

The study board noted that the BA project is anchored in the SamBach study regulations but that this is a general problem and a serious concern that should be handled in collaboration with the SamBach Head of Study.

Punkt 14: Hearing of Common Rules

Nomination:

The study board is asked to discuss and comment on the changes to the Common Rules as presented in Appendix 1.

Appendices:

- Appendix 1 - Presentation og revision/changes
- Appendix 2 - Revised rules

Beslutning

The study board postponed the item.

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Sagsfremstilling til SN revidering af fællesreglerne.docx

RUCs Fællesregler.pdf

Punkt 15: Evaluation proces

Nomination:

The board is asked to discuss and comment on the questions/points in the attached memo on ISEs evaluations practices. Andres Wulff Vissing Christensen will join the meeting to discuss your input.

Background:

In connection with the introduction of the new questionnaires for student evaluations last year, it was agreed to have a follow-up on them before the summer vacation 2024. The Study Board is therefore asked to return any feedback on the questionnaires. The Study Board Secretary will forward the comments to the department's administrative evaluation officer.

In addition, the Study Board is asked to read the attached memo, which, in addition to feedback on questionnaires and the status of evaluations at ISE, also contains a review of recently published reports from the Danish Accreditation Institution and the Accreditation Council on experiences with student evaluations in higher education. The reports deal with conditions and trends across the higher education institutions and point to some conditions that the institutions can advantageously deal with in the continuous work of using the evaluations in the development of teaching and programs.

Based on the memo, the board of studies is asked to consider whether the processes surrounding the evaluations should be adjusted to further engage teachers and students in using the evaluations for pedagogical development. The memo poses a few questions and makes some suggestions for adjustments that the study board is asked to consider and provide feedback on.

The feedback from the four ISE study boards will be used in further work to ensure good and appropriate use of the student evaluations. The study boards will receive a follow-up on this after the summer vacation, which might include proposals for adjusting the evaluation procedures for the study boards' approval.

Appendices:

- Example of a questionnaire for course evaluation
- Memo: Status of the ISE study boards' evaluation practices

Beslutning

The item was discussed in continuation of Item 10 on course evaluations F24.

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Questionnaire for course evaluation, EN, 31.8.23.docx

Status of the ISE study boards_ AWVC May 13 2024, English.docx

Punkt 16: Any Other Business