

DECISION OF THE SPECIFIC COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL SCIENCES 1 OF THE CATALAN UNIVERSITY QUALITY ASSURANCE AGENCY ON THE STUDY PROGRAMME

Study programme	Master in Tourism Transformations for Regenerative Futures (MATTeRS)
Jointly offered by	Universitat de Girona (Spain) University of Oulu (Finland) Kenyatta University (Kenya) University of Mauritius (Mauritius)
Workload	120 ECTS

Based on the report of the expert panel and the discussions of the Specific Commission for Social Sciences 1 in its meeting on 17th January 2025, decides:

1. The study programme "Master in Tourism Transformations for Regenerative Futures (MATTeRS)" offered by the Universitat de Girona (Spain) in cooperation with the University of Oulu (Finland), the Kenyatta University (Kenya), and the University of Mauritius (Mauritius), is **accredited** according to the criteria and procedures defined in the European Approach for Quality Assurance of Joint Programmes.
2. The study programme **partially complies** with the requirements defined by the European Approach for Quality Assurance of Joint Programmes and the European Qualifications Framework (EQF) in their current version.

The consortium must review the following requirements, which **must be monitored within six months** from the decision date. Additionally, the consortium must provide the necessary evidence to demonstrate compliance with these requirements.

The study programme **must meet the requirements** listed below:

1. Eligibility

- > The Cooperation Agreement should include specific terms and conditions regarding the mobility of the academic staff from the four university partners of the joint programme.

7. Resources

- > The University of Mauritius (UoM) should increase the number of academic staff involved in the programme to ensure a balanced contribution and mitigate potential risks associated with the low number of lecturers available.
- > Specify the participation of professors from associated partner universities in courses M9, M10, and M11, including details on the duration, topics, and types of teaching activities.

The following **recommendations** are given for further improvement of the programme:

1. Eligibility

- > Detail the contributions of associated partners in the joint programme design, implementation, and governance.
- > The role of the Student and Industry Advisory Boards could be a bit more elaborated in the Governance structure.
- > Provide full support letters from the associated partner institutions before the implementation of the joint programme.
- > Deploy coordination mechanisms in order to ensure that any variability on the voluntary participation of associated academic and industry partners does not affect the consistency of the program along the years.

2. Learning outcomes

- > Collaborate with industry partners to gather specific tourism sector needs, analyse tourism trends and future projections in post de-growth transformative scenarios, include requirements, challenges and needs from professional current and future employers to validate the programme's content and its applicability.

3. Study programme

- > Ensure coherence and adequacy of intended learning outcomes across the joint programme, it is recommended to further define coordination mechanisms between participating universities and establish a systematic process for developing collaborative arrangements with associated partners.



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- > Inform prospective and actual students about the actual workload per ECTS in each university.
- > Conduct a student survey at the end of each term per course to ensure equitable distribution of workload among the four universities, monitored closely by the Consortium Academic Board.

4. Admission and recognition

- > Clearly specify the opportunities available for the recognition of prior learning, previous qualifications, and periods of study and ensure that this information will be easily accessible in the programme's website.

5. Learning, teaching, and assessment

- > Clarify criteria and processes for work placements and industry research projects (M10).
- > Outline connections between preparatory courses (M09) and industry involvement.
- > Detail requirements for preparatory courses (M07) to guide master's thesis topic selection and supervisor appointments.
- > Provide detailed procedures and criteria for appointing supervisors in M11.
- > Create a dedicated Examination Board within the Academic Board.
- > Elaborate a comprehensive guide for master's thesis process (proposal approval, elaboration, assessment).
- > Publish a clear grading system for the master's thesis evaluation.
- > A three-member panel, including the supervisor and two external members, is suggested for the evaluation of modules M10 and M11.

6. Students support

- > Since the delays in obtaining visa by Embassies and finding appropriate student housing are common issues to all EMJMs, a common policy for students obtaining visas (when needed) and finding accommodation is recommended.
- > Consider developing a unified student support handbook that outlines all available services and how to access them across the consortium.
- > Provide clear information on personal support services for students' mobility during the 4th semester, ensuring effective management of relocation and project engagement at partner universities.
- > Building on the alumni network after studies.

7. Resources

- > Provide a clearer explanation of the simultaneous participation of experienced teachers and post-doc teachers in each module.

8. Transparency and documentation

- > Include a description of the structure and content of the programme's website and educational guides in future documentation.

9. Quality Assurance

- > A dedicated quality assurance board, comprising representatives from the various bodies involved in the system is advised.

The chair of the Specific Commission for Social Sciences 1