

Bar Ilan University

1. Information:

The evaluator used the following documents:

- a. The evaluation committee's report of August 2012
- b. Implementation report submitted by the institution on 30 November, 2014
- c. Other documents (if there are any): Documents listing the BA and MA/PhD Study Programs for 2014-2015 submitted by Bar Ilan University along with their implementation report

2. Did the institution implement the evaluation committee's recommendations?

Recommendations	Was the recommendation implemented? Yes/No/Partially	Is the implementation of this recommendation is crucial for the study program to continue? Yes/no	Is there a need for further follow up before the next round of evaluation? Yes/no/partially	Notes
Add 3 tenure faculty in anthropology, quantitative research methods (with a specialty in stratification, life course studies or organizational studies) and in Arab society or another area as determined by the DSA (within 3 years)	Partially. The DSA has added faculty members in anthropology and social psychology. They have also added two Teaching Fellows who are involved in quantitative research. The DSA will also continue to advertise for an anthropologist	Yes	No	The DSA appears to have made good progress in implementing this recommendation and is continuing to do so
Lighten the teaching load required of faculty to permit more time for research (should be implemented within 2 years)	Partially. The DSA reports that most faculty members teach one course less than the required 4 courses per semester as partial	Yes	No	The teaching load is determined by university policy

	compensation for mentoring of MA and PhD students			
Reduce minimum student enrollments in undergraduate (now at least 17) and MA (now at least 10) courses.	Partially. The DSA has reported a decline in the number of students and hence the number in each course. They have also divided large introductory classes (140 students) into 2 sections	No	Partially. It would be good to know what policies have been adopted re the minimum required class sizes	
The DSA should review the minimum criteria for admission to the BA and MA programs; the DSA—not the university—should set criteria for enrollment to its programs	Yes. The DSA reports that it has not altered its high entry requirements for the MA, and that they have adjusted admission requirements for major and minor students such as that they are now equivalent for all	Yes	No	
The DSA should consider replacing the minor program with a double-major program	Yes. The DSA reports that it has established 5 dual major programs with 5 different departments (Criminology, Political Studies, Education, Hebrew and Communication)	No	No	The DSA is planning to establish dual major programs with other departments as well, such as Classic Studies

Broaden the graduate program to enlarge specialty options available to MA students	Partially. The list of MA courses provided by the DSA indicates that a variety of specialty options are being offered in 2014-15	Yes	No	
The DSA should rethink its involvement in the organizational consulting MA program	Partially. The DSA reports that it is “constantly reevaluating” this MA program and that they intend to continue it	Yes	No	The success/nature of this program can be assessed at the next round of evaluation
The University administration should institute better communication lines with the DSA	Yes. The DSA has appointed a new department administrator and replaced some other administrative personnel. The new Rector, Deputy Director and Dean appear committed to more a more open style of communication	Yes	No	
The DSA and administration should address the dissatisfaction with the promotion procedures	Partially. The DSA report does not indicate what, if anything, has been done. The DSA does say that it will evaluate the 2 new Teaching Fellows in quantitative sociology for promotion to Lecturer once	Yes	No	

	they have published more.			
The University should assess (and hopefully improve) the quality of library facilities)	No. The Vice Rector says that “the University is fully aware of the situation, and will make an effort to improve it in the future”	Yes	Yes	Addressing this concern (and the next 3 concerns below) has been hampered by the University’s difficult budgetary situation
The University should expand its access to e-journals	No	Yes	Yes	
The University should cover the cost of inter-library loan by faculty and students (should be done within 1 year)	No	Yes	Yes	
The University should become an institutional member of the Ma’agar Ha’nitunim, so as to provide faculty and students with access to data sets on Israeli topics (should be done within 1 year)	No	Yes	Yes	

3. Conclusions regarding the implementation of the recommendations. Please include operative recommendations for the continuation of the follow up to be implemented by the institution's administration, department, CHE, PBC, etc.

The Department has begun to implement a number of recommendations made by the evaluation committee, especially: the appointment of an anthropologist (Dr. Ori Schwartz) and two teaching fellows with quantitative skills (who will be considered for promotion once they publish more articles); reducing minimum required course enrollments; reviewing admissions criteria; establishing dual-major programs with other departments; offering a wide range of electives for MA students; assessing its MA program in organizational consulting; and improving communication between the DSA and University administration. Less progress has been made on implementing other recommendations, such as those related to improving library resources and reducing teaching loads. Implementing the latter recommendations is up to the University, however, rather than the DSA.

General observations:

This part should include your review on the effect of the process on the quality of the evaluated field in the higher education system Israel.

My observations address issues that are common to several, if not all, departments that were evaluated.

- The evaluation process stimulated each of the 8 Departments of Sociology and Anthropology to assess their strengths and weaknesses. The departments benefited from both from having to conduct a self-study and to respond to the evaluation committee's recommendations.
- The departments have generally made good progress in implementing the evaluation committee's recommendations. In a number of cases, though, the department has been hampered in addressing the recommendations due to budgetary constraints imposed by the University. For example, some departments have not been permitted them to hire needed faculty and thus to implement curricular changes (such as strengthening their statistical offerings or developing additional MA concentrations).
- There does not seem to have been any attempt to develop a cross-university consortium that would facilitate graduate study in anthropology. Several departments have been able to enhance their anthropological offerings, however.
- Inadequate library resources remain a problem for several departments.
- The expansion of applied programs at the graduate level remains a concern. Departments should continue to monitor these programs (especially those in applied organizational studies) so as to balance academic goals with the desires for greater enrollments.