

## The Open University

### 1. Information:

The evaluator used the following documents:

- a. The evaluation committee's report of August, 2014.
- b. Implementation report submitted by the institution on 27 October, 2014
- c. Other documents (if there are any): CV for I. Leykin submitted by OUI along with their implementation report

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

<b>Recommendations</b>	<b>Was the recommendation implemented? Yes/No/Partially</b>	<b>Is the implementation of this recommendation is crucial for the study program to continue? Yes/no</b>	<b>Is there a need for further follow up before the next round of evaluation? Yes/no/partially</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Convene a committee (within 2 years) to evaluate the number of credits each OUI course should carry and to adjust the number of courses required for the BA degree accordingly	No	Yes	Yes	There is no mention of the DSA's response to this recommendation in their implementation report
The Department should hire an anthropologist within 2 years, in order to be able to offer more courses in this field	Yes. An anthropologist (Dr. Inna Leykin) was hired for the department's senior faculty on October 1, 2014	Yes	No	
Within 2 years, the Department should implement a more gradual progression in the use of English language readings in courses, introducing some materials early in the study sequence, even in introductory courses	Partially. Some English language reading material has been included in the intermediate courses currently being updated and plan to do this also in	Yes	No	The Department appears to be introducing English language materials in courses as they are being updated

	courses due to be updated in the next few years			
The Department should update its courses more frequently and enforce the requirement that each course is revised within 7 years	Partially. The DSA reports that it has updated a number of required and elective courses, and plan to update additional required and elective courses in the next few years	Yes	No	The DSA appears to be implementing this recommendation, as indicated by its identifying a number of specific courses that have been or soon will be updated.
There should be continued monitoring of the new MA in Cultural Studies to address the challenges noted in the Self-Evaluation Report and ensure the quality of the program	Yes. The Department reports that senior faculty members are monitoring the program on an ongoing basis according to CHE principles of self-evaluation. The DSA receives continuing feedback from students and is broadening the selection of elective courses offered	Yes	No	
The OUI should continue to add level-4 positions and consider other ways to create opportunities for course coordinators, such as by encouraging them to compete for senior faculty vacancies when there are openings	No	No	Yes	There is no mention of the DSA's response to this recommendation in their implementation report

Within 2 years, the OUI should discuss with course coordinators strategies for further minimizing salary fluctuations and making future teaching assignments more predictable	No	No	Yes	There is no mention of the DSA's response to this recommendation in their implementation report
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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 implemented a number of recommendations made by the evaluation committee, especially the hiring of an anthropologist and establishing a procedure to monitor the new MA program in Cultural Studies. Other recommendations are in the process of being implemented, such as the earlier introduction of English language material in courses and the updating of courses. However, some recommendations appear not to have been implemented at all, such as the convening of a committee to evaluate the appropriate credits for OUI courses and the concerns related to job opportunities and salaries of course coordinators.

#### **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.