

## // SAMPLE PROCESS | DEGREE PROGRAMME IN DIALOGUE

## STUDENT PERSPECTIVES IN THE QUALITY ASSURANCE PROCESS

The aim of the Degree Programme in Dialogue is to provide a format for exchange between lecturers and students of a degree programme so that they can go through a discourse-based process and reach a common understanding of the **further development needed for their degree programme**. In a discussion moderated by the Office for Quality Management in Teaching and Studies (StQE) with representatives of both status groups, topics and problems to be addressed are identified on the basis of available key figures and survey data on the respective degree programme. In addition, possible development options are considered and concrete steps for the further development of the degree programme are decided on. The degree programme coordinators and the relevant committees (academic affairs committee and faculty council) ensure that the development steps agreed on are implemented, in some cases in coordination with the respective study office.

The Degree Programme in Dialogue format is clearly not an alternative to the mandatory evaluation procedures set out in the evaluation regulations. Instead, it complements the standard collection of survey data in that the goal is to use the data for development purposes in a moderated cross-status group and to have an evidence-based exchange between students and lecturers.

The implementation of the format with the support of the StQE is carried out exclusively at the request of the degree programme coordinators.<sup>1</sup> The degree programmes themselves decide if they would like to take part in any of the follow-up options.



Fig.: Schematic process of the Degree Programme in Dialogue

<sup>1</sup> See the regulations for the evaluation of teaching and studies at Leipzig University (Ordnung zur Evaluation von Lehre und Studium an der Universität Leipzig) dated 14 March 2023, Section 6(7)

## REQUEST AND PREREQUISITES

The programme coordinators for the respective degree programme contact the StQE to request that the Degree Programme in Dialogue format for exchange with lecturers and students of a degree programme be implemented. After reviewing the available data, the StQE then decides on the request. To participate in this format, the results of the degree programme evaluations carried out in accordance with the evaluation regulations must be available. Key data may also be reviewed in preparation of the format.

In addition to the online student surveys that are part of the degree programme evaluations, the StQE can also lead a student feedback discussion. This discussion is an opportunity for students to share their opinions and for these to be systematically documented. The results of the student discussion can then also be incorporated into the Degree Programme in Dialogue. All of the results are made available to the Degree Programme in Dialogue participants in advance for their information and as a way to help them prepare for the discussion.

## PROCESS AND GUIDELINES

The group of participants consists of four to six students and a comparable number of lecturers from the degree programme. A balanced ratio of both status groups is essential. The participation of at least three students from higher semesters is necessary in order to achieve the desired results. To ensure a structured exchange between lecturers and students, the discussion on the further development of the degree programme is based on the following topic areas:

- I. Profile and curriculum
- II. Attractiveness and visibility
- III. Academic feasibility and student success
- IV. Prospects after graduation

The discussion lasts up to 120 minutes and is moderated by staff from the StQE. The degree programme is responsible for organisational issues such as scheduling the date, sending the documents (in coordination with the StQE) and inviting the students.

At the beginning, the results of the degree programme evaluations prepared by the StQE are presented to the participants in the discussion with the most important information and initial ideas arranged according to the topic areas. Additional ideas may be added at this point. The moderated discussion then proceeds as follows:

- Establishing a common understanding of the initial situation
- Identifying any need for action
- Developing scenarios for dealing with the identified need for action (development scenarios)
- Deciding on a development scenario together based on well-founded reasons
- Deriving concrete implementation steps for the development scenario agreed on
- Agreeing on responsibilities and a timeline (schedule and work plan)

## REVIEW STAGE

The StQE then prepares a document for all participants that includes the main points of the discussion and the objectives agreed on between the students and lecturers. The degree programme coordinator presents these to the relevant academic affairs committee.

## FOLLOW-UP OPTIONS

After completing this format, the degree programme coordinators can choose from a variety of follow-up options, for which the StQE can provide support:

- Direct transfer of the results into the formal process of degree programme development by [adapting the study documents](#)<sup>2</sup>
- Holding a [curriculum workshop](#) moderated by the StQE to fundamentally revise the degree programme
- Conducting topic-specific [workshops](#)

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<sup>2</sup> cf. [quality assessment of degree programmes \(committee procedure\)](#)