

Semesterkoordinators evalueringsrapport for Master i smertevidenskab E21

Årstal: 2021

Semesterkoordinator/dato for udarbejdelse af rapport: 10/03/2022

Antal afholdte styrings-/semestergruppemøder på semestret: 2

Bilag vedhæftet: None

(Referater fra semestergruppemøde skal kun vedhæftes, hvis de ikke tidligere er sendt til studienævn (studienævnssekretær). Semesterevalueringsskema skal ikke vedhæftes.

Semestret generelt (bemærkninger til forberedelse/opstart, studie-/læringsmiljø, studerendes arbejdsindsats, deltagelse i styrings-/semestergruppemøder og semesterevaluering, administration, fysiske rammer m.m.)

12/20 students completed the questionnaire.

The semester included two semester meetings where the students engaged heavily in dialogue on how to improve their working conditions and fulfill the program's requirements. The semester meetings were critical yet positive, and the students arrived at reasonable solutions to their challenges during these meetings. The semester included an expanded seminar day. The semester coordinator provided lectures, material and instruction on building and writing project reports according to the AAU PBL mode and recruiting guest lecturers ranging from clinicians starting research careers to source high-quality material properly. The students highly valued these seminar days, as indicated directly to the semester coordinator.

Although not indicated in the evaluations but in the semester meetings, the administration support was outstanding, and students expressed appreciation.

The status seminar was deemed extremely helpful; however, upon request by the students, a hybrid version was held but not without practical complications.

Almost all students completed the evaluation, indicating a positive evaluation of Module 6 and a relatively positive evaluation of Module 7 which consists of the semester project. However, Module 7 received criticism unrelated to the curriculum and logistics, COVID, practicality and cooperation between the censors and examiners. These issues are expanded on the Project Module/description below.

Projektmodul (bemærkninger til forløb af gruppedannelse, forløb af projektgruppearbejde, projektvejledning, sammenhæng mellem projektgruppearbejde og kursusmoduler, statusseminar, eksamen m.m.)

Modul 7 - Smertevidenskab og behandlingspraksis – Overall, the project work for the course and the expected level was well received and matched the demands of the curriculum to a high degree. The following are major points worth addressing.

(POINT 1) One exception is few (4 persons) respondents indicated the facilities did not support the learning objectives or ability to carry out the project. The module recommends that the project are conducted at the students' place of employment and/or clinic and not on-premise at AAU since the students are not living/working nearby. In such cases, where the students could not utilize their premises, the semester coordinator found a clinical solution and solution.

(POINT 2) These professional students expressed a need to register projects when the supervisor cannot take responsibility for data management or registration of student projects as official research projects. These cases should not be confused with an ethics application on an ongoing AAU research project established and registered according to GDPR requirements. Registering projects for GDPR purposes was and remains a point of high frustration for several supervisors and student groups.

(POINT 3) There are reports that Covid-19 interfered with the project; however, this comment is likely related to all workplaces and not AAU in particular. All semester meetings were held online to allow all to participate, and seminar days were held on campus.

(POINT 4) There is one report that a supervisor was unqualified and a recommendation for a proper onboarding process for supervisors. Moreover, the issue spilled over to an exam situation where the students witnessed friction between the censor and the project supervisor. The semester coordinator offered to intervene and take the matters further, and out of respect to the group's request, the semester coordinator did not pursue.

Kursusmoduler (bemærkninger til kursusmodulers forløb – forelæsninger, caseundervisning, klinik ophold og kliniske øvelser, sammenhæng/progression i/mellem forløb, forberedelse/opgaveløsning/øvelser, eksamen m.m.)

Modul 6 - Kvantificering, karakterisering og vurdering af smerter – The module received praise and positive feedback and overall rated very high on all evaluation topics.

(POINT 5) There was only one indication from one or two respondents for more feedback in the course: especially during and after the exam. The qualitative responses indicated that the material delivered in the course was very compact.

Action points/planlagte tiltag

(POINT 1) – At the Semester start, students are currently informed of where to run or set up a project for Module 7. This leaves time for reflection and coordination. The semester coordinate will continue to be available for helping and offering to students unable to perform their projects in the workplace.

(POINT 2) – The board provides a clear ‘how to guide’ for professional students performing research activities outside AAU premises. More specifically, where to register projects when the supervisor is not the right person to take responsibility for data management or registration of student projects as official research projects, these cases *should not be confused with an ethics application* and occur in accord to following GDPR requirements. More specifically, when the supervisor's position makes it impossible to manage or process the information. This point is reoccurring and was brought up in the semester meetings and has been communicated further. The action plan is that the semester coordinator will provide an outline of each possible scenario of this issue and deliver to the study board to investigate and create a guideline for distribution.

(POINT 3) Covid no longer appears to be an immediate concern. AAU and the supervisors intend to monitor the situation closely. The semester coordinator will relay the information to the supervisor to discuss and offer backup plans for student's projects as with previous years as the semester starts.

(POINT 4) – See also ‘other’ comments below. At the onset of the semester and Module 7, the semester coordinator will encourage students to speak up and request additional co-supervision should friction occur during supervision. The semester coordinator will consult with the study board about bringing forward sensitive information about project supervision.

Module 6: (POINT 5) Explain more clearly to students during that Module start that material will be delivered in a compact manner as a reflection of the overall Master Program geared toward working professionals. Additionally, make clear which aspect to focus on, in Moodle, in preparation for the exam and which aspects/material are more relevant to utilize in Module 7 to complete their semester project.

Evt. andre kommentarer

(POINT 3) There needs to be a method to ensure quality onboarding process of all supervisors; prior co-supervisions is not always a training tool. Semester coordinators should have an outlet to express these situations confidentially so mitigate these supervision conflicts from continuing.