

COBRA REPORT

Study programme: Master of European Studies: Transnational and Global Perspectives

Drawn up on: 09/12/2019

KU Leuven uses the [COBRA method](#) to work on the quality of its study programmes. In this report the programme committee reports every four years on the quality of its programme(s) and describes the identified strength(s) and planned action(s) of the programme(s) Master of European Studies: Transnational and Global Perspectives.

Strengths of the study programme(s)

Well-structured programme with room for choice. The compulsory part, consisting of the master's thesis and the course 'Transnational and Global Perspectives on Europe: Ideas, Theories and Methodologies', ensure that all the students learn certain basic principles, notions and methodologies that are important for the field. This compulsory part is supplemented by five specialized modules, which offer a rich diversity and room for choice (students choose one module and several courses within this module).

Interdisciplinary. The programme is truly interdisciplinary and involves seven faculties. The interdisciplinary character shows in the compulsory course 'Transnational and Global Perspectives on Europe: Ideas, Theories and Methodologies', where students follow lectures from multiple perspectives and disciplines, and in the modules, that each consist of courses from multiple disciplines.

Rich diversity in student nationalities. The programme has a steady number of c. 30 students from outside the EEA and c. 40 different nationalities in general. This rich diversity of nationalities offers multiple perspectives in the courses and is also a good training for jobs that involve international relations. The programme also engages directly with the different disciplinary and cultural perspectives and uses this diversity as an asset.

Interactive learning environment. The programme uses a variety of course formats with a special focus on group work, interactive seminars and discussions. For example, in the course 'Transnational and Global Perspectives on Europe: Ideas, Theories and Methodologies' the master's thesis is supported by tasks and activities such as a poster session and a student conference, where students learn to present their research and engage in discussions. In the simulation game students also engage in a discussion.

Planned actions

Integration of international students. The programme has a lot of international students and these students need some support at the start of the academic year to integrate in a new country/city and a new university. Not all students seem to be aware of the initiatives of the university to help international students, such as the buddy system. The programme will inform her students about these university initiatives at the start of the academic year and will explore the possibility of organizing similar initiatives that focus on European studies.

Methodological training. As a result of the diverse academic background of the students and the interdisciplinary character of the programme, methodological training is a recurrent issue in the programme. The staff gives an overview of various methodologies in 'Transnational and Global Perspectives on Europe: Ideas, Theories and Methodologies', acknowledging multidisciplinary character of the programme. In addition, the programme will investigate how it can offer additional methodological training to her students, including within the courses currently offered in the programme.

This COBRA report is a result of the past four-year COBRA cycle (2015-2019). Each study programme that participated in the COBRA cycle has drawn up this document, which specifies the strengths and planned actions of the study programme. These strengths and actions result from the dialogue between the programme and its stakeholders (primary actors, alumni, professional field and international experts from the discipline). This report aims to give a comprehensive indication of the study programme's realised quality. The COBRA report will be made available in the programme guide, so it will be accessible to the public.



More information on COBRA: <https://www.kuleuven.be/english/education/quality/cobra-english/quality-assurance-method>
 More information on the quality of education: <https://www.kuleuven.be/english/education/quality>
 KU Leuven educational terminology: <https://www.kuleuven.be/english/education/educational-glossary/educational-glossary>