Follow-up Report on the
Master in Biodiversity Conservation, Management and Restoration, University of
Granada

1. NORMATIVE SCOPE

The article 27 of Royal Decree 1393/2007, modified by Royal Decree 861/2010, July, 2, regulating official university education, establishes that for the implementation of the education corresponding to official Degrees, the evaluation bodies determined by the autonomous communities Laws, will conduct the follow-up concerning compliance with the project included in the plan of studies verified by the Universities Council.

The Andalusian Knowledge Agency, in accordance with the provisions by the Andalusian Law on Science and Knowledge 16/2007, December, 3, has been assigned the competences for evaluation and accreditation of the universities activities. The Andalusian Knowledge Agency Direction for Evaluation and Accreditation has provided the standards and guidelines necessary for the follow-up evaluation of Universities degrees.

The Follow-up Commission designated by the Andalusian Knowledge Agency Direction for Evaluation and Accreditation, formed by experts in this field, and acting in a regime of independence and autonomy, has the competences for the follow-up evaluation of the Andalusian official degrees implementation.

2. REPORT AIMS

The University of Granada applied for the follow-up evaluation previous to the accreditation renewal of:

ID Ministry	4315927
Degree denomination	University Master in Biodiversity Conservation, Management and Restauration
University	University of Granada
Centre	International Postgraduate School
University participant	
Field of knowledge	Sciences

Agencia Andaluza del Conocimiento
CONSEJERÍA DE CONOCIMIENTO, INVESTIGACIÓN Y UNIVERSIDAD

3. EVALUATION CONTENT

The Follow-up Commission of the corresponding field of knowledge issued this report as a result of the follow-up evaluation of the aforementioned official degree.

This evaluation is based on the programme follow-up self-assessment report, Call 2018, and the follow-up procedure established by DEVA.

3.1 Available Public Information

Insufficient

The Master direction must take into account all the recommendations and actions for improvement indicated in the Follow-up Report of 07.24.2017 referred to the revision of the Master public information at the programme webpage.

In the report three recommendations for improvement were especified:

- It is recommended to publish on the website the missing information and review the available one.

- It is recommended to include the visualisation format of all the subjects educational guides with the aim that all the sudents might access to their respective theoretical bases.

- It is recommended to include a specific summary file of the Master plan of studies.

It is indicated in the self-assessment report by the Master direction that the 3 recommendations were resolved. Nevertheless, they must attend and resolve, one by one, all the actions for improvement specified in the report in 07.24.2017. For example, it is confirmed at the website that the degree is taught is Spanish and in the verified report that it is taught in Spanish and English. This was indicated in the report and it has not been resolved. On the other hand, on the website not all the Degree outcomes have been published nor the improvement plan.

Recommendations:

- It is recommended to publish on the website all the Master outcomes (the following ones are missing: GPA for admission to the Master, students satisfaction with the degree, where applicable, rate of graduates professional insertion in labour market, students international mobility, percentage of outgoing mobility, places offered for external practices and degree of satisfaction with external practices).

- It is recommended to publish the Improvement Plan on the website.

Recommendations for Special Follow-up:

- The Master direction must attend and resolve all the actions for improvement specified in the report in 07.24.2017 referred to the information published at the webpage differing from the verified report and referred to the report information missing on the website.

3.2 Quality Assurance System Implementation

Improvable

The information, composition and rules on the Internal Quality Assurance Commission is published at the Master webpage.

The composition is incomplete, there is missing information on the Master Coordinator, the student and two teachers. Concernig rules, the provided link: "REPLACE THIS DOCUMENT FOR: THE MASTER QUALITY ASSURANCE COMMISSION FUNCTIONING RULES". On the other hand, the information on the dynamics of functioning for the year 2016-2017 and the meetings frequency was not included in the self-assessment report.

According to the self-assessment report, through the year 2016-17, some improvement actions were carried out concerning data collection tools, therefore it can deduced the internal quality assurance system is operative and providing information that might be taken into account for decision making and improvement implementation.

The procedures integrated in the internal quality assurance system (SIGC) for this Master refer to the following aspects: 1. Education and teaching staff; 2. Academic outcomes; 3. External Practices; 4. Mobility programmes; 5. Graduates insertion in labour market and satisfaction with learning; 6. Degree of satisfaction of the stakeholders involved; 7. Attention to complaints and suggestions; 8. The promotion of the plan of studies, its development and outcomes.

The available data on this Master is limited given that it was recently implemented. Therefore, it will be evaluated in a few years, and the different procedures outcomes regarding the internal quality assurance system will be valued.

Concerning the availability of a document management tool or internal platform for the improvement plan management, a new module was designed and provided at the web application which allows the Master managers an annual systematic follow-up, as it has been outlined in the self-assessment report. On the other hand, it was also indicated the design and implementation of a new document management module to access to all the documents related to the Degree management.

Recommendations:

- It is recommended to provide in successive self-assessment reports a detailed and complete information on the Quality Assurance Commission composition, rules and dynamics of functioning (meetings frequency, issues dealt with, agreements approved, etc.).

- It is recommended to provide in successive self-assessment reports a detailed valuation on the document management tool use and applicability and correct the mistakes identified.

- It is recommended to provide a detailed information on the outcomes of the different SIGC procedures (indicators), including a deep analysis and valuation. This will allow to get more information on the Master concerning weaknesses and strengths, which will be taken into account for decision making and improvement actions.

3.3 Programme Implementation Process

Satisfactory

As it has been verified in the self-assessment report, the Master direction confirmed this Master was developed in accoradance with the verified report, with the provision of all the subjects offered. Concerning the admission indicators provided: Number of enrolled students: 26; number of places offered: 30, and new enrolled students in the Degree: 26. The analysis found that the number of enrolled students was lower than the number of places offered, despite the number of applications for admission were higher (90), most of them as first option, and that a probable reason might be the EIP procedures for assigning admission derived from DUA evaluation and waiting list. It is considered to be an appropriate analysis.

The Master direction states that timetables organisation is complex given that for most of the subjects highly practical courses are provided. (lab and on-site practices) and the limited availability of facilities in the Faculty of Sciences. It has been also indicated that all the academic guides were published with a proper structure and accessibility. Additionally, new procedures on collaborative work among teaching staff for academic coordination were developed; the number of places and entities for external practices increased; students assignation of Final Master Thesis were improved by a more equitable distribution; compulsory FMT oral presentations have been established to be defended in the presence af the Advisory Committee formed by teachers from the Master and external teaching staff, providing positive comments for the FMTs quality improvement.

All the aforementioned actions and measures are considered to be adequate, contributing to the improvement of the plan of studies development and they are positively valued.

On the other hand, it was also provided the data on the students and teachers´ degree of satisfaction on education planning and development, indicators related to internationalisation, and indicators on External Practices, including an adequate analysis of the outcomes found.

As far as the educational guides is concerned, as it is verified at the Master website, their structure is adequate, including information on the modules, subjects, credits, teachers, departments, tutoring schedule, recommendations and/or prerequisites, contents descriptions, general and specific competences, detailed syllabus, bibliography, recommended links, teaching methods and evaluation.

It is also provided in the self-assesment report the link to the guide recommended for the FMT development and including all the necessary information (aims, estructure, recommendations, evaluation and classification).

3.4 Teaching Staff

Improvable

In the self-assessment report it is provided adequate information on qualifications, professional positions, teaching experience (*quinquenniums*) and research experience (six-year terms). According to the aforementioned information, teaching staff professional profile and qualifications are considered adequate for the FMT direction. Nevertheless, it was not povided any specific information on the external practices teaching staff professional profiles and qualifications. On the other hand, the data on the students´ opinions on teaching staff academic activity is also provided, and the list of Academic Innovation Projects for the year 2016/2017. Additionally, it is submitted the information on the academic courses organised by the Quality, Innovation and Prospective Unit provided to the Master teaching staff for the Call 2016-2017.

Concerning the mechanisms for teaching coordination, in the self-assessment report there is not clear information about mechanisms for teaching coordination, and therefore, they cannot be evaluated. There is just a general information on this issue at the website, regarding horizontal and vertical teaching coordination, which does not refer specifically to the Master coordination.

Recommendations:

- It is recommended to provide more specific information on the external practices teaching staff professional profiles and qualifications.

- It is recommended to provide a more detailed information on the specific mechanisms for the Master teaching coordination, indicating the Teaching Commission functioning, meetings, issues dealt with, agreements adopted and the meetings minutes localization.

3.5 Infrastructures, services and resources allocation

Improvable

The information provided in the self-assessment report on infrastructures, material resources and services for the Degree provision is considered adequate. It is also included information on the satisfaction degree regarding administrative management by students, teaching staff and PAS; on the degree of satisfaction concerning infrastructures, resources and services by students and teaching staff. The information provided is considered adequate.

On the other hand, the information on academic and professional counseling services to students: Counseling by the University of Granada (Vice-Rectorate for studenst and Vice-Rectorate for Internationalisation); and counseling services by the academic centre (through the institutional website, tutorials and the Degree webpage). Some data are provided on the

students´ degree of satisfaction concerning the academic and professional counseling services, however a deep analysis on these data is not provided.

Concerning the information provided on the external practices management for its correct development, in the self-assessment follow-up report it is indicated the number of entities and/or places for external practices increased (section 3. Implementation Process) stating that the possibility for external practices is one of the Degree key points, thanks to the entities´ effort for collaboration (administration, NGOs and enterprises) related to biodervisity management and conservation. The external practices indicators show a general satisfaction by students and teaching staff. Additionally, the Degree website provides detailed information on external practices, including the Guide for External Practices (with all the necessary information), the Student Report template, the Enterprise Tutor Report and Academic Tutor templates; the list of the agreements with private entities (enterprises), administrations or NGOs, providing the training period contents.

With respect to the information provided on the correct development of mobility, it is indicated (section 3. Implementation Process) that according to the students evaluation, the Degree mobility offer is almost no satisfactory, nevertheless there were no students ´applications for mobility programmes. A possible reason might be the short offer of destinies, though the Academic Commission (CAM) is open to sign agreements with other universities. CAM and most students consider these activities are highly satisfactory for the students´ *curriculum* development. This analysis is considered adequate and, as the Master direction points out in the self-assessment report, they will work to increase the Master internationalisation. No detailed information on the places offer for external paractices is provided, agreements signed and developed.

It is recommended to include this information at the website.

Recommendations:

-It is recommended to provide in successive self-assessment reports detailed information on the management for mobility development (places offer, agreements signed and developed) at the Degree website.

3.6 Indictors and Outcomes

Improvable

The Internal Quality Assurance procedures (SIGC) refer to the following aspects: 1. Education and teaching staff; 2. Academic outcomes; 3. External practices; 4. Mobility Programmes; 5. Graduates insertion in labour market and their satisfaction with the education provided; 6. Satisfaction of the different stakesholders involved; 7. Attention to complaints and suggestions; 8. The plan of studies promotion, development and outcomes. Data on the Degree and FMT global qualifications are also provided in the self-assessment report, as well as the sudents´ satisfaction with FMT management, providing an adequate analysis. On the other hand, it is confirmed there are no available data on the insertion in labour market.

Concerning academic outcomes, the data on the performance rate (98,10%), success rate (100,00%) and efficiency rate (98,97%) in the year 2016-2017 provided are compared to the

University of Granada average, the Andalusian and the National ones, regarding the same field of knowledge. The indicators on the Degree demand are provided, but just a general analysis is included.

The indicators on the involved stakeholders´ degree of satisfaction were also provided, as well as the different groups´ satisfaction with the programme, number of answered surveys and percentage of population per group, but just a general analysis is included.

Recommendations:

- It is recommended to provide a deeper analysis on the SIGC´s and academic indicators outcomes in successive reports, taking into account their tendency, the comparison with external indicators (the same Degree at other universities or selected referents) and segmentation. This will allow to base the Degree strengths and weaknesses, leading to a more detailed assessment of the Degree situation and the identification of areas for improvement.

3.7 Programme Improvement Plan

Satisfactory

As verified in the self-assessment report, the Degree direction provides an Improvement Plan comprising the actions for enhacement derived from the weaknesses detected by the analysis developed in the year 2016-2017. The concrete actions of the Improvement Plan are: signing mobility agreements to increase participation in thiese programmes; encouraging participation in mobility programmes; increasing the students´general satisfaction with the Degree planning and development; administrative support to the Master coordination and stakeholders involved; achieving the same number of enrolments as places offered; promoting all groups participation in surveys. The Improvement Plan includes a detailed description of the actions for improvement, its justification, person in charge, estimated date of achievement (indicating whether it is in-progress), and developed actions. Consequently, the Master direction provides an improvement plan by a systematic planning of the corrective and innovative measures.

Recommendations:

- It is recommended to publish the Improvement Plan at the Degree website, where it is currently found the following message: "Replace this document for the Degree Improvement Plan".

3.8 Follow-up of the recommendations made in the verified report as possible recommendations in the modification report

The Master Verification Report in 06.16.2016 was favourably evaluated and no recommendations were provided.

4. CONCLUSIONS

The Master implementation is conducted according the follow-up criteria established. There is documentary evidence this Degree (Master in Biodiversity Conservation, Management and Restauration at the University of Granada) is carrying out periodical revisions through the CURSA and SIGC indicators analysis and valuation. This analysis found the identification of a series of weaknesses, strengths and achievements, with the subsequent implementation of measures for improvement. Nevertheless, there are some improvable aspects and detailed recommendations in this Follow-up Report which must be satisfactorily attended and included in the successive report.

List of recommendations / recommendations for special follow-up related to the criteria

1. Available Public Information:

Recommendations:
- It ir recommended to publish on the website all the Master outcomes (the following ones are missing: Grade point average for admission, students´ satisfaction with the studies, graduates insertion in labour market rate, students´ international mobility, percentage of students outgoing mobility, offer of places for external practices, and degree of satisfaction with external practices).
- It is recommended to publish the Improvement Plan on the website.
-The Master direction must attend and resolve all the actions for improvement specified in the report in 07.24.2017 referred to the information published at the webpage different to the verified report and referred to the report information not published on the website.

2. Quality Assurance System Implementation:

Recommendations:
-For successive reports it is recommended to provide complete and detailed information on the Quality Assurance Commission composition, rules and functioning dynamics (meetings frequency, issues dealt with, agreements adopted, etc.).
- It is recommended to provide a detailed valuation on the use and applicability of the document management tool and correct the mistakes found.
- It is recommended to provide detailed information on the SIGC different procedures outcomes (indicators), including a deeper analysis and valuation. This will lead to obtain information on the Master, identifying weaknesses and strengths, which will be taken into account for future improvement and decision making.

4. Teaching staff:

Recommendations:
- It is recommended to provide specific information on the teaching staff for external practices

qualifications and professional profile.

- It is recommended to provide detailed information on the mechanisms for the specific educational Master coordination indicating the Academic Commission functioning, meetings, issues dealt with, agreements adopted and localization of the meetings minutes.

5. Infrastructures, services and resources allocation:

Recommendations:

-In successive reports, it is recommended to provide detailed information on the correct management of mobility (offer of places, agreements and their implementation), including this information at the Degree website.

6. Indicators and outcomes:

Recommendations:

- In successive reports, it is recommended to provide a deeper analysis of the SIGC indicators outcomes, as well as the academic outcomes indicators taking into account the tendency presented, the comparison with external indicators, (The same Master at other universities or selected referents) and their segmentation. This will allow to base the Master weaknesses and strengths, leading to a more detailed analysis of the Master situation and the identification of areas for improvement.

7. Programme Improvement Plan:

Recommendations:

- It is recommended to publish the Plan for Improvement on the Degree website, where it is currently found the following message: "REPLACE THIS DOCUMENT FOR THE DEGREE PLAN FOR IMPROVEMENT".

This follow-up report aims at providing information to help universities improve quality of official degrees implementation.

Córdoba, July, 19, 2018

Sciences Follow-up Commission