



香港學術及職業資歷評審局
Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of
Academic & Vocational Qualifications

CONFIDENTIAL

PROGRAMME REVIEW REPORT

UNIVERSITY OF MACAU

PROGRAMME REVIEW

(i) PHD IN BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES

(ii) BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES

[This is the report on the
PhD in Biomedical Sciences programme.]

JANUARY 2020

List of Abbreviations

| | |
|-----------|---|
| AY | Academic year |
| BSc BS | Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Sciences |
| DSES | Higher Education Bureau |
| EQAA | external quality assurance agency |
| EQAAG | <i>Guidelines for External Quality Assurance Agencies</i> |
| FGSC | Faculty Graduate Studies Committee |
| FHS | Faculty of Health Sciences |
| GPA | Grade Point Average |
| HEI | higher education institution |
| HKCAAVQ | Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications |
| Macao SAR | Macao Special Administrative Region |
| MSc | Master of Science |
| PAC | PhD Advisory Committee |
| PhD | Doctor of Philosophy |
| PhD BS | PhD in Biomedical Sciences |
| PR | Programme Review |
| PRG | <i>Guidelines on Program Review</i> |
| QA | quality assurance |
| SED | self-evaluation document |
| SFQ | Student Feedback Questionnaire |
| UM | University of Macau |

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 Terms of Reference

- 1.1.1 The Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications (HKCAAVQ) is commissioned by the University of Macau (UM) to provide Programme Review (PR) service in accordance with the *Guidelines on Program Review (PRG August 2018)* and *Guidelines for External Quality Assurance Agencies (EQAAG August 2018)* under the higher education quality evaluation system of Macao. HKCAAVQ abides by the specifications in the notification letter from the Higher Education Bureau (DSES) and the evaluation proposal approved by DSES when executing the service.
- 1.1.2 PR is conducted to determine if the programme being reviewed meets the programme objectives and the intended learning outcomes and how far it has remained up-to-date. UM presented two programmes for review, namely PhD in Biomedical Sciences (PhD BS) and Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Sciences (BSc BS) (programme information at **Annex 1**), which were handled as a cluster in this PR exercise.
- 1.1.3 One self-evaluation document (SED) per programme was submitted by UM and accordingly one PR Report was issued for each programme. This is the report on the **PhD in Biomedical Sciences** programme.

1.2 Basic Information of the Programme

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|---|---|
| Name of Institution | University of Macau |
| Host Academic Unit | Faculty of Health Sciences |
| Name of Programme | PhD in Biomedical Sciences |
| Academic Level | Doctoral degree |
| Discipline | Biomedical Sciences |
| Number of Credits | For students with master's degree: 27 For students without master's degree: 30 |
| Specialisation or Major and/or Minor | Molecular Biology and Biomedicine Track |

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|--|---|
| Major Mode of Delivery | Lecturing and Others (Research) |
| Major Medium of Instruction | English |
| Commencing Year | Academic year (AY) 2013/14 |
| Maximum Intake | 60 (for AY 2019/20) |
| Campus Address | University of Macau, Avenida da Universidade, Taipa, Macao, China |
| Major Teaching Venue (if outside campus) | Not applicable |
| Other Information | Nil |

1.3 Approach

- 1.3.1 This was primarily a paper-based review conducted based on the execution principle of peer review.
- 1.3.2 HKCAAVQ formed an expert Panel for this exercise (panel membership at **Annex 2**).
- 1.3.3 The Programme Review Meeting took place at the campus of UM on 30 October 2019, during which the Panel also met with selected personnel including the senior management, teaching staff and student/graduate representatives, and toured the major programme-specific facilities (agenda of PR Meeting at **Annex 3**).
- 1.3.4 Further clarification and supplementary information was provided by the University in writing on 29 November 2019.

1.4 Outcome

- 1.4.1 HKCAAVQ determines that based on the evidence presented by the University against the requirements specified in the PRG, the PhD BS programme of UM meets the stated objectives and intended learning outcomes, and has remained up-to-date.
- 1.4.2 **Commendations**
 - (a) The curriculum is well structured with some taught elements and commendably includes a non-credit bearing course of ethics. (para. 3.3.4)

- (b) The publication requirement for graduation is a commendable target. (para. 3.5.4)

1.4.3 **Affirmations**

- (a) The Panel affirmed the planned improvements for PhD BS considering that the proposed increase in taught courses will equip students with a stronger foundation. (para. 3.3.6)
- (b) FHS stated, and the Panel affirmed the plan for this, that the Faculty is exploring to cover pedagogical research as one of the supporting research areas in the internal competitive research grant. (para. 3.6.4)
- (c) The Panel suggested, and the University agreed, that FHS should introduce key performance indicators (KPIs) for assessing teaching and learning effectiveness more systematically. (para. 3.8.7)

1.4.4 **Recommendations**

- (a) FHS should revisit and differentiate between the POs and PILOs of PhD BS and to align them with the goals of FHS. (para. 3.1.5)
- (b) FHS should enhance the student recruitment strategy so that more local students and students from other countries could be recruited to enhance the diversity of the student population and to support the growth of local talents. (para. 3.2.4)
- (c) FHS should formalise the development of the elective courses and enhance their consistency in terms of course objectives and intended learning outcomes, course structure, delivery mode and assessment requirements. (para. 3.3.5)
- (d) FHS should monitor and review the supervision load to ensure that PhD BS students would receive adequate attention from their supervisors on their learning experience as well as personal development, in addition to their involvement in research project work. (para. 3.4.4)
- (e) FHS should consider a larger representation from both the undergraduate and postgraduate cohorts in the Academic Council. (para. 3.8.5)
- (f) FHS should properly document the discussions of the internal annual programme reviews and the related improvement

plans/actions, and to reinstate the minute-taking arrangements of the Faculty Graduate Studies Committee, to provide an audit trail to facilitate the implementation and evaluation of the follow-up actions. (paras. 3.8.8 & 3.8.9)

- (g) FHS should monitor the supervision of research and the development of the students in the partner institutions. (para. 3.9.2)