



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
Bachelor of Science 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>
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
PhD	Doctor of Philosophy
PhD BS	PhD in Biomedical Sciences
PMC	Programme Management Committee
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 **Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Sciences** programme.

1.2 Basic Information of the Programme

Name of Institution	University of Macau
Host Academic Unit	Faculty of Health Sciences
Name of Programme	Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Sciences
Academic Level	Bachelor's degree
Discipline	Biomedical Sciences
Number of Credits	122

Specialisation or Major and/or Minor	1. Pharmaceutical Science 2. Medicinal Science (from 2019/20 onwards)
Major Mode of Delivery	Lecturing
Major Medium of Instruction	English
Commencing Year	Academic year (AY) 2015/16
Maximum Intake	26 (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 BSc BS programme of UM meets the stated objectives and intended learning outcomes, and has remained up-to-date.

1.4.2 **Commendations**

- (a) The Faculty's effort put into arranging and conducting on-campus or video interviews with applicants is commendable. (para. 3.2.4)
- (b) The curriculum commendably includes attention to developmental and ageing-related and public health subjects. (para. 3.3.5)
- (c) The Panel commended the Programme for equipping the undergraduate students with research capabilities through the involvement in the research projects of the Faculty. (para. 3.4.4)
- (d) The Panel commended FHS for assembling a team of academic staff with impressive credentials in both research and teaching. (para. 3.6.4)

1.4.3 **Affirmations**

- (a) The Panel suggested, and the University agreed, that FHS should provide more information on the assessments, including a clear mapping of the course assessments to the CILOs to facilitate a common understanding of the assessment requirements between the students and teaching staff. (para. 3.5.3)
- (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. 3.8.5)

1.4.4 **Recommendations**

- (a) FHS should benchmark the Programme with similar universities and/or programmes to formulate additional, complementary PILOs on more generic graduate and transferable skills alongside the core/specialist biomedical knowledge, understanding and skills. (para. 3.1.2)
- (b) FHS should solicit input from industry stakeholders on a regular and proactive basis through their formal representation within

the Faculty's programme review and management mechanism.
(para. 3.1.5)

- (c) FHS should specify the admission guidelines including the minimum scores of the relevant English tests for different entry channels. (para. 3.2.2)
- (d) 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. 3.2.5)
- (e) FHS should revisit the formulation of the specialisations to ensure that graduates' employability is aligned with the latest developments and trends in the relevant industries. (para. 3.3.4)
- (f) FHS should draw up a curriculum map outlining the knowledge and/or skill structure and building blocks in the curriculum to ensure the vertical and horizontal integration of the courses in the Programme. (para. 3.3.5)
- (g) FHS should revisit the planned change in credit distribution taking into account the implications on students' learning and workload. (para. 3.3.7)
- (h) FHS should prepare syllabi for the credit-bearing Graduation Project I and II courses to provide the relevant course information and clarify the aims and distinction of the two courses. (para. 3.4.4)
- (i) FHS should institute an external examiner system to solicit regular, programme-specific external input and to promote consistency of academic standards within and across the different courses of the Programme. (para. 3.5.4)
- (j) FHS should consider establishing a teaching track for non-professorial teachers so as to sustain a stable quality teaching team. (para. 3.6.7)
- (k) FHS should properly document the discussions of the internal annual programme reviews and the related improvement plans/actions to provide an audit trail to facilitate the implementation and evaluation of the follow-up actions. (para. 3.8.6)