

Working on quality - Applied Computer Science

We systematically work on education quality.

Applied Computer Science (Dutch programme, flex programme, international programme) works continuously on the quality of its education and degree programme.

A selection of what we do:

We work with students, alumni and the professional field on the form and content of our degree programmes. By doing this, we aim to improve and innovate our degree programmes continuously.

Priorities are laid down in annual action plans. We monitor their progress systematically.

Via the survey with the 'Suggesti' tool, students provide feedback on the course activities. Thanks to student input through informal talks with their lecturers, structurally organised student council meetings, targeted focus group discussions and lesson visits by an education expert, we keep in touch with what happens and act where needed.

Through various surveys, students, staff and alumni provide feedback on the university college's strategy and the living and learning climate. As a study programme, we stand for listening to and acting on feedback.

The learning outcomes, learning and evaluation material of a programme are evaluated annually in a focus group consisting of students, alumni, lecturers and representatives of the professional field.

The programme engages in critical self-reflection and describes it in a degree programme review every four years. Based on this self-reflection, an expert panel checks the quality of the programme aligned with the Quality Code of Education. The programme follows the panel's recommendations.

Participation

Every **lecturer** is open to feedback: if you have a question or suggestion, speak to your lecturer.

The **degree programme** collects input through the programme student council, the degree programme advisory council and the degree programme council. The degree programme council brings together the lecturers and the day-to-day management.

Annual review of learning and evaluation materials

The learning outcomes, class and exam material of our degree programme are evaluated annually with a representation of teachers, students and the work field.

In 2021-2022, we reviewed the following programme components: User Interfaces 1 and The Lab. As User Interfaces 1 had been completely renewed to a new didactic concept (HILL), various questionnaires and focus discussions were organised to fine-tune the subject. Within "The Lab", we looked for better ways of coaching the students.

Degree programme review

Every programme organises a 'Degree programma review' every four years. The degree programme review for Applied Computer Science took place during the academic year 2021-2022.

In December 2021, a panel of internal and external experts examined the quality of Toegepaste Informatica, Toegepaste Informatica Blended (TI-BL) and Applied Computer Science (ACS). They interviewed the programme managers, students, lecturers, alumni and representatives from the professional field.

Among the programme's greatest strengths, the panel identified:

- The degree programme has a dynamic, motivated, collegial team. It is a warm degree programme with approachable, helpful lecturers
- The degree programme chose HILL as an inspiration for its teaching concept.
- Evaluation is tailored to the necessary mastery level.
- Students are given a broad and thorough technical foundation.
- There is a focus on new trends in IT, AI, Cybersecurity, Cloud Engineering, CI/CD, Microservices architecture, ...
- Our focus on soft skills is an additional strength.
- There is a good alignment at TI-BL with the needs of working students
- Authentic cases and projects are used.
- The internship's organisation, supervision and follow-up are perceived as a strength.
- There is good coordination with the professional field via company evenings, conference days, integration projects, degree programme advisory board, etc.
- The degree programme focuses on feedback techniques and teaches students to seek feedback continuously
- Within the assessment at the level of the course units, efforts are made to support Intersubjective assessment and peer assessment.

In addition, the panel identified some "imperative work points".

- Notwithstanding the professional field's high level of training, the programme must be able to demonstrate before the committee that it achieves VKS level 6. The degree programme should demonstrably test all goals from the OLR
- For Applied Computer Science (international programme), the panel feels there is a need to work on better organisation and communication with students. The degree programme should consider the alignment between lecturers regarding coaching and feedback. Furthermore, the degree programme should pay adequate attention to

correcting English language errors in the course materials.

At last, the committee had additional recommendations regarding introducing the HILL methodology, a more plan-based approach for structural feedback loops in addition to informal feedback consultations, and the request to consider dropping French in the degree programme.