memo

Date:
26 August 2021

Subject:
Development dialogue FSS MSc in Spatial Sciences (research), [Croho: 60660]

During the development dialogue, the panel reflected upon a number of issues put forward by the programme.

Suggestions and ideas to set up a Sustainable Landscape track and how to integrate the interfaculty and interdisciplinary aspect of a track within the research master program

The panel likes the idea of interfaculty collaboration on sustainable landscape, with some considerations. First, one should realize that interfaculty cooperation is tough to achieve thus it is important to ensure that it is taught to the standards of a research master. Second, be aware that students need a secure ground in their own discipline. And finally, sustainability has real potential, thus it is important to make sure that there is a good strategy and a decent number of students.

Suggestions with regard to reserve fixed PhD positions for research master students

The panel likes the idea of reserving a few positions for promising research master students: "It would be great to get students on that track". On the other hand, they mention some considerations: the panel saw enough students from this master who started at a PhD position after they finished the research master: "you don't have to show prospective students once again that they have the opportunity to achieve an interesting PhD position." Finally, the panel warns that one should be careful with competition among the students for these positions as it can lead to a negative atmosphere.

Suggestions with regard to the course "Scientific Reading, Debating, Reflecting" and evidence that regular MSc-courses chosen by research master students meets the required level

The panel supports the idea that the course "Scientific Reading, Debating, Reflecting" (SRDR) could be instrumental in this. The course is appreciated and should not be removed. However, it should be clear that the panel need evidence that the regular courses research master students take meets research master level outcomes, for instance with help of extra assignments and reflections in SRDR.