



APHEA

Agency for Public Health
Education Accreditation

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY FOR THE ACCREDITATION REVIEW OF

The Joseph H. And Belle R.
Braun School of Public Health and Community Medicine
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem -Hadassah
Faculty of Medicine
Jerusalem
Israel

בית הספר לבריאות הציבור ורפואה קהילתית
של האוניברסיטה העברית והדסה ע"ש בראון
Braun School of Public Health and Community Medicine
Hebrew University-Hadassah



Accreditation granted July 2015 to July 2021

AGENCY FOR PUBLIC HEALTH EDUCATION ACCREDITATION
SITE VISIT DATES: April 27-29, 2015

SITE VISIT TEAM:
Professor Laurent Chambaud, Chair
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Executive Summary

The site visit team (hereafter referred to as "the Team") would like to thank all those involved at the School of Public Health (hereafter referred to as "the School") for the preparation of the self-evaluation documentation (SED), the curriculum validation process, the constant requests for additional information during the process as well as the hospitality during the visit. From the SED and validation documents the team were able to discern the intricacies of the School and were provided with a base framework on which to verify the information with all the respected internal and external partners during the site visit. The Team would especially like to thank the work of the Director, Yehuda Neumark and above all Maureen Malowany who had prepared all the documentation as well as ensuring the logistics and smooth running of the site visit.

The Team were impressed by the enthusiasm of all of the staff at the School and the spirit that the School has for public health. It came across in every meeting that there is a committed and dedicated staff who are passionate about what they are doing and the Team were very impressed by this. This applied to all levels from administrators, students, alumni representatives, faculty through to the directorship.

Criterion I: Governance and Organisation of the Institution

The Team witnessed a small committed faculty and administration with effective relationships with students and stakeholders. The Team also noted that the School has a specific relationship with the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and Hadassah Medical Organization¹. This objectively has strengths but also offers potential challenges. This was considered something locally specific to the School and in terms of governance has to be taken into account.

The Team thought that the relationship between students, on the one hand, and stakeholders, on the other hand, should be more formalised for the management of the School. The School has many relationships and it may benefit from having more formal and transparent procedures and governance arrangements. It was also noted that the School is the oldest School of Public Health in Israel and there are some new schools of

¹ <http://www.hadassah-med.com/>

public health within the country and therefore it might be interesting to establish a network with the other schools in order to strengthen public health in Israel as well as to promote its coordinated development.

Criterion II: Aims and Objectives of the Public Health Institution and its programmes

As previously mentioned there was found to be a very positive team ethos and spirit around the delivery of the programmes. Whilst everybody had signed up to the mission statement in principle, some members couldn't specifically state what it was or where it was to be found. The Team felt that it might be helpful for the School to undertake some form of wider process to revisit, review, refresh and share the mission statement.

There were excellent links and dialogue with senior public health officials in the country, in the Ministry of Health, the defence forces and in the local public health community. This was seen as a real strength of the School. The Team noted the development plan of the School, which is already two years old. Some things had progressed, such as appointments, but it was considered by the Team that it would be a helpful exercise to revisit the development plan and to specifically think about the short, medium and longer term (typically over a ten-year period) aspirations in each of the areas of the School's activity.

Although the time of the visit did not allow for full exploration, the Team were made aware of the existence of active research teams and collaborations.

Criterion III: Programmes

The School has several programmes which include the multidisciplinary Hebrew and International Masters of Public Health which were examined in detail. It is clear that there are strengths especially in the areas of epidemiology and biostatistics which is quite historical in the School. However there are also some fragilities such as health promotion and non-communicable diseases (NCDs) which could be more emphasised within the curricula. The Team recommended that the School should review the coherence of visibility in the teaching of non-communicable disease within the programme. There was evidently some courses and modules which are related to non-

communicable disease but this was something that could be highlighted further within the curriculum and considered as a core subject.

It was unclear during the review how the marking system worked and whether marks were reviewed solely on an individual basis by course leaders or whether marking was subject to any further scrutiny, and this was something perhaps to be discussed within the School. There are well disseminated policies on plagiarism and fraud and the School might wish to consider the purchase and training of faculty in anti-plagiarism software as, especially concerning international students, different countries often have different rules and expectations.

The Team was also aware that the School was in the process of adopting the European credit transfer system (ECTS) which was being driven from the University level. This was seen as positive and progressive given that Israel is not a member state of the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) and Bologna process.

The School should also consider the integration as well as the role and remit of the formal examination board within the structures of the School. This would not necessarily entail the generation of a new committee or structure, but might be potentially an extension of the remit of an existing committee/unit.

Criterion IV: Students and Graduates

The Team was impressed with the attitude of the students who were uniformly positive about the School and the atmosphere within. The alumni management of the School was impressive including an externally funded administrator, a database and website. This was seen as an area activity to which the School excels in and could also be of benefit to other schools. There were good examples of graduates going on to lead high-level public health functions within their own countries. One suggestion, rather than a recommendation, would be for the School to undertake an alumni survey to monitor the skills used by the alumni in their workplaces as many other schools are simply not in a position to know what is happening to their alumni.

Another area to be considered by the School would be to connect alumni (whilst in the School) with their national public health associations so that upon return they have a

public health home. The Team had heard from the Kenyan student who had actually initiated his own public health association on return from Israel.

The School was monitoring individual student progress and whilst these systems were effective they were found to be slightly informal and may benefit from a more structured framework.

The School may wish to revisit the English webpages as the promotional brochure presented to the Team was impressive and it was felt that the website should reflect the level of detail and quality seen in the printed material. For example there is some excellent work in the literature on the alumni arrangements which the Team felt could be shared as "best practice".

Criterion V: Human Resources and Staffing

It was clear from the meetings that the School has committed staff with good relationships with each other and the students. There is a strong external lecturing support which has both strengths and weaknesses. One of the very positive aspects of the School was the support for core staff in conferencing and sabbaticals which was seen as beneficial both to the faculty and the School for the continuous development of the faculty. The Team found that there are commendable links of the faculty in both practice and policy.

One of the main issues foreseen for the School is that several of the key faculty are due for retirement over the next few years, and there is as yet no explicit commitment from the two partner organisations to replace these posts. It would therefore be worth the School revisiting and updating the priorities in the development plan of the longer term, as mentioned 10 years, which would include a detailed assessment of the academic human resources that the School requires to realise the implementation of the planning.

The School may wish to consider a more active involvement in new pedagogical approaches such as e-learning and blended approaches as this was considered an area that all schools of public health will need to investigate for the future and it is important to understand how these new approaches will come into being.

Criterion VI: Supportive Services, Budgeting and Facilities

The Team recognised the challenges and constraints that the School faces over the long term planning and budgeting given the situation between the Hadassah Medical Organisation and the way that academic posts are allocated at the University level.

The School has some excellent facilities in library and computing areas shared with the Hebrew university faculty of medicine and the accommodation offered to the bursary students was seen as excellent. At present the domestic and international students are not located in the same physical location and it may be helpful to the School, in terms of internal discussions, to try and address this so that all students, faculty and administrative support can be located in one place. This might be a part of the longer term development planning as a way to argue a case with the two larger bodies.

Criterion VII: Internal Quality Management

The Team witnessed a good quality management and feedback system. Once again it was generally deemed rather informal; if the School is able to formalise these structures it would be beneficial in ensuring a clear record of recommendations and actions which would be transparent for everybody. One specific point would be to consider if all of the School student representatives could meet together at defined periods of time, for example at the beginning of the course or midway, to enable them to share their experiences.