

ICP Connect 2022 - ANNEX 3: Selection descriptors

SCIENTIFIC QUALITY	The proposal demonstrates high scientific value and has a strong research connection.
Scientific value	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposed programme is original and has scientific value and merit. For instance, it demonstrates what scientific gap it does fill. The proposed programme is scientifically relevant for partner countries and institutions. An analysis of how the programme will contribute to the scientific quality in the beneficiary country/ institution is presented in the proposal.
Expertise and research connection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The academic applicant(s) is (are) among the high level experts/specialists in the domain. He (they) demonstrate that the application is related to his/their qualifications and teaching. The proposed programme draws on the research expertise of the Flemish university (universities). The Flemish university (universities) has (have) a track record on development research. All course providers have a research background. The majority of the teaching staff has published development-related papers, preferably in international peer-reviewed journals.
Recognition and quality assurance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposed programme demonstrates international competitiveness, proof of international standards and quality as required by International Frameworks and Proof of Global competence. The programme has an excellent international reputation and standards and is enhanced by strong international connections. The programme is internationally competitive.
ICP specific descriptor A: Internationalisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposed programme demonstrates a marked ability to attract a good percentage of Belgian, European and other international students, as well as students from developing countries, into the same programme. The nature, scope and relevance of the target group of students from developing countries of students and the academic admission criteria and selection procedure are clearly demonstrated in the application form. Data on student flow and outflow are provided. Interuniversity cooperation in Flanders is an added value if well justified. If an interuniversity programme is proposed, the proposal must clearly provide justification of the added value of each partner e.g. in terms of division of labour and funding, institutional specialization, synergies and complementarities.

RELEVANCE	The proposal responds to the development context, and its approaches and objectives contribute to the objectives of the partnering institutions and capacity development.
Policy relevance / context relevance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposed programme is aimed at capacity development and demonstrates a link to employability of graduates from developing countries, entrepreneurial attitude, poverty reduction or innovation. • The proposed programme relates to the South beneficiaries' requirements (i.e. ambitions of organizations sending students) and/or country needs (manpower planning) and/or global priorities as regards the necessary competencies required for societal impact. • The proposed programme is in line with the VLIR-UOS country strategies' themes where applicable (i.e. when referred to by the applicant in terms of geographical scope for attracting students from developing countries). • The applicant has proven knowledge on how to apply knowledge and expertise in the South. The majority of the teaching staff engaged in the implementation of the programme have (research, teaching, project implementation) experience in developing countries; they have a proven track record of research or other activities in developing countries.
ICP specific descriptor B: Transformation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposal introduces plans, through the teaching and learning process, on the translation of development relevance to actual development and on the transformation of students into change agents.
Content and objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The curriculum of the proposed programme including the choice of thesis subjects, is oriented towards development issues and needs in the South. Thesis subjects can be chosen that are related to such issues and needs, • The proposed programme demonstrates a link between the scientific and development objectives. • The development relevance is demonstrated in the objectives, contents or implementation plan.
Implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teaching and learning methodologies are presented as to how the development relevance will be implemented (e.g. field action in the South, cooperation with industry, student joint projects, case studies, integrated projects, data collection and examples from the South).

EFFECTIVENESS	The proposal demonstrates how it will support the achievement of objectives.
Support measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriate support measures are in place, such as training connection to other projects in the South; involvement with industries; interdisciplinarity; proof of student-centered instructional methodology with application in development country context. There is interuniversity or inter-institution cooperation where appropriate to strengthen the development relevance. • Measures for student support and orientation are in place. The proposal contains a remedial strategy on how it supports students from different backgrounds and contexts. • Applicability / multiplication in the South has been taken into account and analyzed in the proposal. Measures on how to support the graduates (e.g. use of alumni, peer support etc.) are presented in the proposal. • The proposal has a policy and measures to support gender equity among students.
Monitoring and Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring systems and frameworks are in place. This includes follow-up of outputs and outcomes such as collecting feedback from the students from developing countries at the end of a semester, and indicators related to this group's intake, graduation rate, return rate and publications. • There is a clear after-graduation policy and measures on how to support the graduates from developing countries (e.g. use of alumni, peer support etc.). There is a monitoring plan to track the alumni. Other outreach programmes are developed.
ICP specific descriptor C: Institutional embeddedness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposed programme demonstrates a clear relationship with the university's Mission and Strategic plan. The proposed programme is part of the internationalization policy of the institution(s). The proposed programme demonstrates its firm embeddedness in the university. • The proposal presents the availability of teaching and administrative staff.
EFFICIENCY	The proposal demonstrates that the resources are efficiently used to achieve and maintain the objectives.
Task efficiency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a clear definition and distribution of roles and tasks for all involved partners. • There are efficient mechanisms for coordination and communication between the involved partners in the North and South, if any.
Cost efficiency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The programme budgets are reasonable and justified for the achievement of the intended objectives (e.g. in terms of hosting location and effectiveness, impact and sustainability). • The break-down of the budget for organizational costs is presented. • There is evidence that the partners have sufficient financial management capacity and experience (ability to handle the budget) to successfully deliver all aspects of the project; e.g. experience in managing similar projects.

IMPACT	The proposal clearly demonstrates the impact on capacity development.
Impact on capacity development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposed programme clearly demonstrates the expected impact on capacity development. It shows a potential tangible impact at direct and indirect beneficiary level and both in academic and development context. • The proposed programme is likely to realize employability through reinsertion of the graduate, with relevant local, national, international networks and stakeholders. • When partnerships are envisaged, the proposed programme will have a positive and measureable effect on capacity building of partner institutions in the South.
SUSTAINABILITY	The proposal demonstrates measures how the achievements and activities will be sustained.
Sustainability strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is sound ownership and commitment by participating universities which is verified by different means e.g. joint proposal writing, needs assessments, previous cooperation etc. • The proposed programme includes a sustainability strategy which will includes an analysis on how the capacities developed will be sustained and possible factors that enhance or inhibit sustainability of the activities and outcomes both in the North and in the South, (such as e.g. ownership / commitment / economic / financial / institutional / technical / socio-cultural aspects, strategies to educate a critical mass, south networks, thematic networks, alumni strategy, feasible plans for involvement and use of postgraduates to sustain the programme (e.g. guest lectures, visiting professors schemes)). The proposal foresees working with institutional structures allowing the activities to continue after the funding (institutional sustainability). • The proposed programme justifies joint programming as a way of enhancing the objectives. In this case there are clear indications on the embeddedness in the South, including institutional agreements, policy, cooperation mechanisms, rules for student secondment, level of commitment, matching funds. • The proposal could envisage a progressive programme development in three possible stages: (1) joint programme (2) double degree (3) joint degree. The proposal provides a clear plan as to how additional issues emerging from joint and exchange programmes and North-South mobility will be handled (cost efficiency with regards to effectiveness and impact, extra cost, MoU, possible matching funds from the university in the South, degree architecture and credit transfer, teacher and student mobility arrangements, teacher qualifications, curriculum development, administration, student assistance, short term housing etc). • The proposed programme justifies South-South cooperation (as an indication for sustainability and ownership). • A cost analysis for financial sustainability is elaborated and the proposal foresees a clear follow-up strategy to finance the programme after funding ends (financial sustainability). • There are other external funding sources or scholarships for the same programme.

More details on the selection criteria and scoring and decision making are to be found in the [Selection System \(policy& guidelines\) document of VLIR-UOS.](#)