

Research Evaluation - Evaluation model

Department of Business and Management

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Contents

Introduction.....	3
Purpose.....	3
Evaluation model.....	3
The Evaluation Panel	4
Self-evaluation.....	4
Visit at the Department	5
The evaluation report.....	5
Follow up	5

Research evaluation at the Department of Business and Management 2017/18

Introduction

During 2017 and 2018, the Department of Business and Management at Aalborg University is carrying out a research evaluation. The research evaluation is one of two pilot evaluations for future systematic research evaluations of departments at the Faculty of Social Sciences.

The evaluation is commissioned by the Head of Department at Department of Business and Management.

Purpose

The purpose of the research evaluation at Department of Business and Management is to inform the development of the Department's research strategy in view of maintaining and further improve high standard of research and associated academic and societal impact, and identify (new) research potentials in the various Research Groups and in the Department as a whole.

In order to do this, the research evaluation should document research activities and outputs in the research groups at the Department for the period 2012-2016 and provide an overview of research priorities across the Department and within individual research groups. The research evaluation should enable mutual exchange of knowledge, enhance in-house development and strengthen the research profile of the research groups and the Department as a whole.

Evaluation model

The evaluation will be carried out on the level of the Department and individual research groups. There will be no individual staff evaluation.

While education will not be evaluated, research and teaching coherence will be included in the evaluation.

An international Evaluation Panel will be appointed. The Panel will visit the Department and prepare a joint evaluation report that should be agreed upon and signed by all members of the Panel before they leave Aalborg University. The Panel will also provide oral feedback to the Department's employees and the Department Management Team.

The evaluation is expected to address the relevance and coherence of the Department's research profile including activities and output, and the Department's organisation and how the Department spends available resources. The report should also identify potential new research areas and give recommendation for enhancing academic and societal impact, including third mission activities. In addition, the evaluation is expected to evaluate and give recommendations on the individual research

group composition, strategies and activities as presented in the self-evaluation reports.

The final evaluation report will be based on:

- The Faculty's strategy
- the Department's strategy and self-evaluation
- Research Groups' strategies and self-evaluations
- Brief abstract of PhD-theses (2012-2016)
- a visit to the Department, where the panel has the opportunity to meet with the management and researchers from all research groups
- a bibliometric analysis
- cases on societal impact
- general information about the organisation, budget structure, legislation, etc. for Danish universities in general, Aalborg University, the Faculty of Social Sciences, and the Department, in particular
- quantitative information about the Departments' resources, staff, funding, etc.

The Evaluation Panel

Upon consultation with the research groups and the Department Council, an Evaluation Panel of 3-5 members is appointed by the Department Council based on recommendation from the Steering Committee for the research evaluation. The members of the Panel should be internationally recognized researchers within economics, business and management with experience in research evaluation, and be collectively (thoroughly) versed in the research fields covered and methods applied by the Department.

At least one panel member should be familiar with the PBL approach, since Aalborg University and the Department from the very beginning has practiced PBL approach in teaching and research, which is reflected in the strategies of Aalborg University, the Faculty of Social Sciences and the Department of Business and Management. Preferably, one of the panel members should have experience in conducting cross-disciplinary research. Finally, at least one panel member should be able to read Danish.

The members of the Evaluation Panel should be unaffiliated with the Department and a full arm's-length relationship is a requirement.

Self-evaluation

Each research group at the Department will prepare a self-evaluation report of their strategies and research activities based on a common template. The self-evaluation report is expected to be both descriptive and analytical in order to provide a balanced foundation for the Panel's evaluation and

advice.

The self-evaluation report should include the following sections:

- An executive summary
- A brief description of the research profile of the research group
- A description of the Research Group's organisation and composition
- Presentation and reflection on the research group's strategies, activities, output and academic impact within the following areas:
 - Publications
 - Research training (PhD)
 - External funding
 - Research collaboration outside the research group
 - Third mission activities and collaboration outside research
 - Research and teaching coherence
- Cases on societal impact.

Visit at the Department

As part of the evaluation, the Evaluation Panel will visit the Department for three days. The Evaluation Panel will plan the visit with the Head of Department, who is responsible for the visit.

The visit includes meetings with the Research Groups, the Department Council, and with the Department and Deanery. As far as possible, the Department will comply with the Panel's requirements for the organisation of the visit. During the visit, time will be allocated for discussions in the Panel and for a feedback session with the employees of the Department and its Management Team.

The evaluation report

The evaluation report is prepared by the Evaluation Panel based on material provided by the Department, the Panel's analysis of the material, and interviews and observations during the visit. To assist the Panel, a Final Report template will be provided by the Department. The template will include sections referring to the issues the Department asks the Panel to evaluate and comment upon. In addition, the panel may include any other areas that are of particular importance in relation to the Department's research and provide recommendations for enhancing academic and societal impact.

The final Evaluation Report is expected to address and provide advice on the themes presented in the Self-Evaluation Report, as identified above further the Evaluation Report is expected to point on strengths and untapped potentials as well as challenges identified by the external Evaluation Panel.

Follow up

The Evaluation Report should be discussed in the Research Groups, the Department Council, the Steering Committee and the Department Management Team.

These groups should discuss the process of follow up activities and design a plan for the

implementation of the recommendations from the Evaluation Report.

The Head of Department will hand in a Final Report and an executive summary with main conclusions, including a plan for action to the Deanery at the Faculty of Social Sciences.