STUDENT EXPERT MISSION
EVALUATION OF ACADEMIC PROGRAMMES

What is the mission of the 3rd cycle student experts in the Department of Academic Programme Evaluation?

By analysing the doctoral programmes run within each doctoral school in their different dimensions (policy and characterisation, teaching methods, student supervision and support, outcomes for their doctoral students, but also their management and continuous improvement), the experts contribute to their development within their ecosystem and the improvement of the quality of the teaching delivered to doctoral students.

Each panel of experts is in charge of evaluating the 3rd cycle (PhD) academic programmes of one institution. He/she works on both the evaluation of the results of the 3rd cycle programmes during the past period and the planned programmes (project) with a view to their accreditation for the next five-year contract. The objective is to draw up a succinct evaluation report on each 3rd cycle academic programme, including in particular a diagnosis of the academic programmes and the cycle (strong points, weak points, satisfactory points and recommendations).

What exactly do they do?

- Prepare the evaluation:
  - Undergo expert’s training;
  - Familiarise themselves with the methodology and the evaluation standard;
  - Read all the documents provided to the panel of experts;
  - Analyse the institution’s self-evaluation file;
- Participate in meetings and hearings;
- Prepare items that are useful to the hearings:
  - Contribute to the provisional version of the report on the 3rd cycle;
  - Prepare the hearings (list of questions to for the stakeholders evaluated, etc.).
- Participate in and/or lead the hearings with the stakeholders evaluated;
- Participate in the panels’ briefing and debriefing sessions;
- Participate in the panel’s post-visit reporting and summarising sessions;
- Produce the final documents:
  - Contribute to the provisional version of the report on the 3rd cycle;

What skills and qualities are required?

- A good knowledge of French higher education
- A good knowledge of the regulatory framework applicable to doctoral programmes
- Ability to analyse and synthesise
- Rigour and compliance with procedures
- Due regard for the confidentiality of the cases handled
- Ability to work in a collegial context
- Ability to listen and dialogue
- Good writing skills in French

What experience is expected of candidates?

- Experience as an elected member of an institution’s board of governors.
- Experience with an evaluation body.