

Blended Intensive Programs in Higher Education: Global Health Challenges through Collaborative Innovation



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Introduction

A Blended Intensive Program (BIP) in higher education merges short-term mobility with online collaboration.

This initiative fosters innovative learning and teaching methods, facilitating joint curricular development for students, academics, and staff in Higher Education Institutions (HEI).

Description

To enhance students' understanding of global health and social challenges, seven HEIs developed an interprofessional and international BIP addressing the main topics:

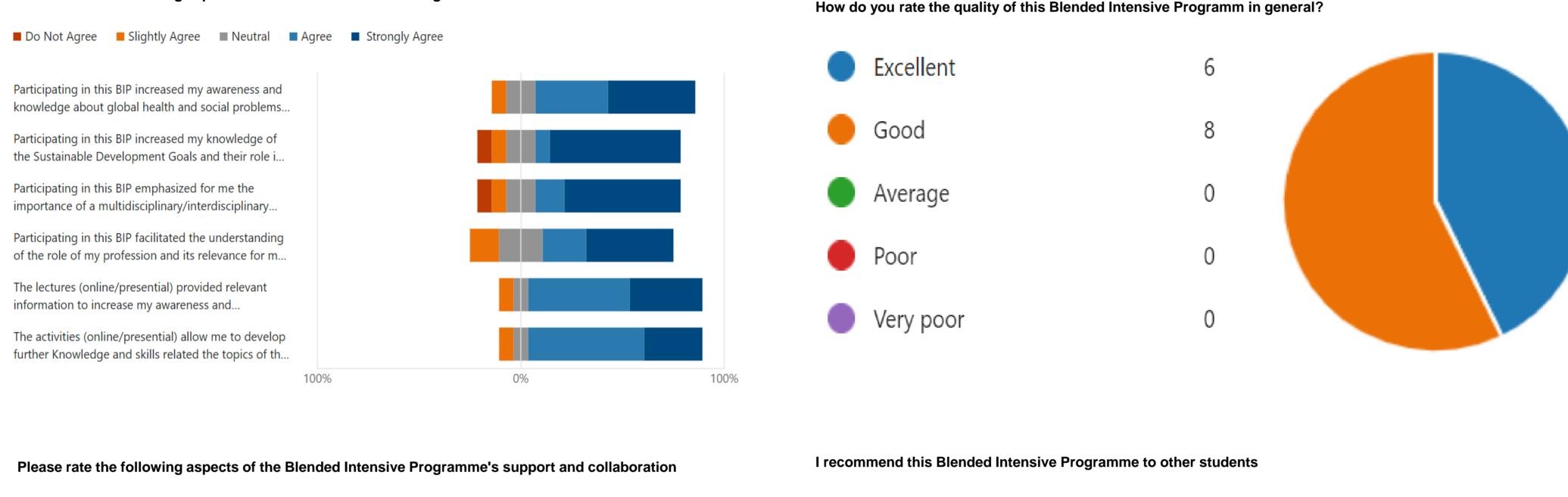
- Global health
- Migration
- Demographic change
- Non-communicable diseases
- Climate change
- Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- Economic impact.

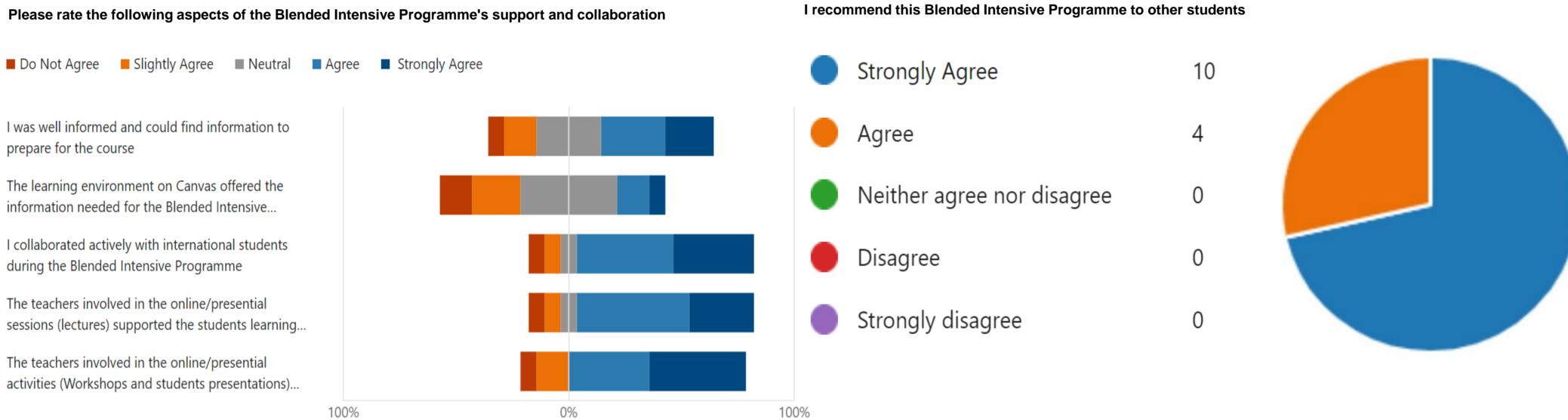
Students participated in lectures and group work, during virtual and physical exchange. They developed interprofessional innovation plans addressing global health challenges.

At the end of the course participants were surveyed via an online questionnaire. They also wrote a reflection assignment about how they experienced the course and what they personally learned. This evaluation comprised both quantitative and qualitative feedback, offering a comprehensive insight into participants' experiences and learning outcomes.

Results

Please rate the following aspects of the Blended Intensive Programme's content and activities







Conclusion

Participants noted an increase in awareness and knowledge about global health, social problems and SDGs. They valued the interdisciplinary approach in addressing global health challenges.

Feedback concerning educational support highlighted the role of educators in both lecture- and workshop-based modules.

The accessibility of the joint online learning environment was a point of attention.

In summary, the data suggests a generally favorable response, with participants seeing potential value for academic peers.

Educational Relevance

BIPs enable future joint development of blended mobility in curricula for students, academics, and administrative staff.

Teaching and learning in an international, multicultural, interprofessional course facilitates personal and professional growth of students and staff.

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