



Evaluation 2008

In 2008, ESSWAP organized its fourth summerschool in Oss from June 15th until 20th. As a result of improved promotion, the number of applications exceeded the maximal number of students and the committee had to make a selection. After this selection procedure we ended up with 12 students from all over the world, including for the first time people from Asia and North America. The content of the course was similar to last year, though we had to make some changes in the logistics as the demonstration experiments on Thursday moved from Nijmegen to Utrecht. This required some planning as all students had to travel by train and bus. The only other major change in the program was the Friday morning, where we had scheduled a case study in which one of the students presented data of several compounds in a modified Irwin test. The results were discussed with the students and compared to the results obtained the day before in the experiments. In addition, due to illness, one of the speakers had to cancel his lecture at the very last moment, and one speaker sent a colleague to take over.

All students were asked to fill out an evaluation form and all forms were returned, though not all students answered all questions. Below is a summary of the answers to the different questions.

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1. Did the course come up to the expectations you had on the basis of the information offered on the website? If not, please explain why.

All students answered this question with YES, whereby some students indicated that the course exceeded their expectations.

2. Is there any topic you would like to see added to the program?

This question always leads to different answers, usually depending on the background of the students. Examples are:

- More about general pharmacology (2x)
- Drug addiction (3x).
- A workshop on trouble shooting/methodological problems (2x)
- Some information on clinical trials
- Pain models

3. Is there any topic you would like to see deleted from the program?

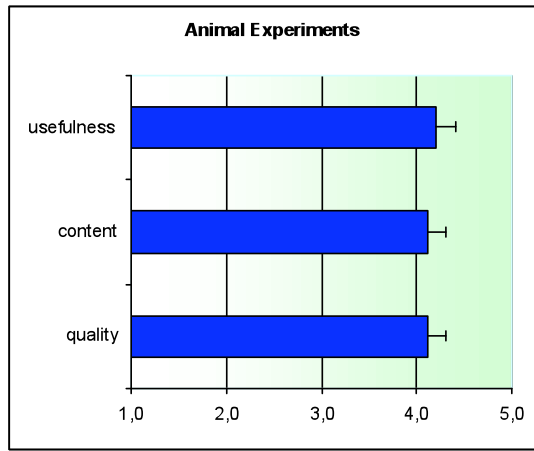
Most students answered this question with NO. One student proposed to delete the experimental section as well as the case study, and one student suggested to cut off dinner time.

4. How do you judge the individual lectures? (1 = poor; 5 = excellent)

Most students were very pleased with all the speakers and the scores were very high (ranging from 3.8 to 4.8, 5 being the maximum score). Averaged over all the speakers, the score was **4.4 ± 0.2**. Some students remarked that it was a pity that the presentations in the documentation map were not identical with the actual lectures, and that the handouts were too small to read. We will try to address this issue next year.

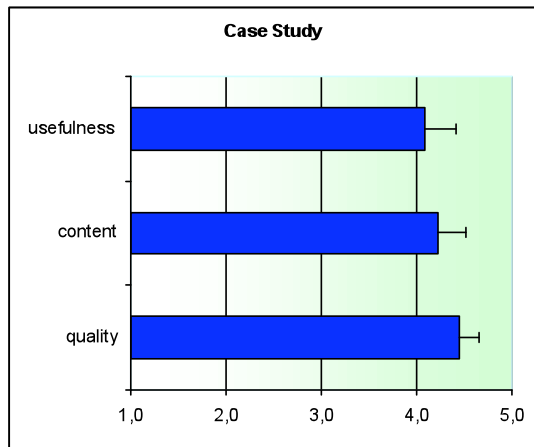
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5. How do you judge the animal experiments/workshop (1 = poor; 5 = excellent)



Overall the students were pleased with the animal experiments, though several pointed out that the time schedule was a bit short. This is probably due to the fact that we did the experiments in Utrecht for the first time. Some proposals for improvement were already made and will be implemented next year.

6. How do you judge the final case study?



As mentioned in the introduction, the final case study was a new element in the program. Overall this was well received by the students, though some pointed out that it was too much repetition and some asked for different things, like trouble shooting of behavioural experiments.

7. How do you judge the organization of the course? (1 = poor, 10 = excellent)

The mean overall score for the organization was 9.4 ± 0.2 , which is the highest score ever. Remarkable is also the small SEM, indication that everybody agreed that the course was very well organised. This is clearly the result of several years of practice and should provide an argument for keeping the meeting in Oss.

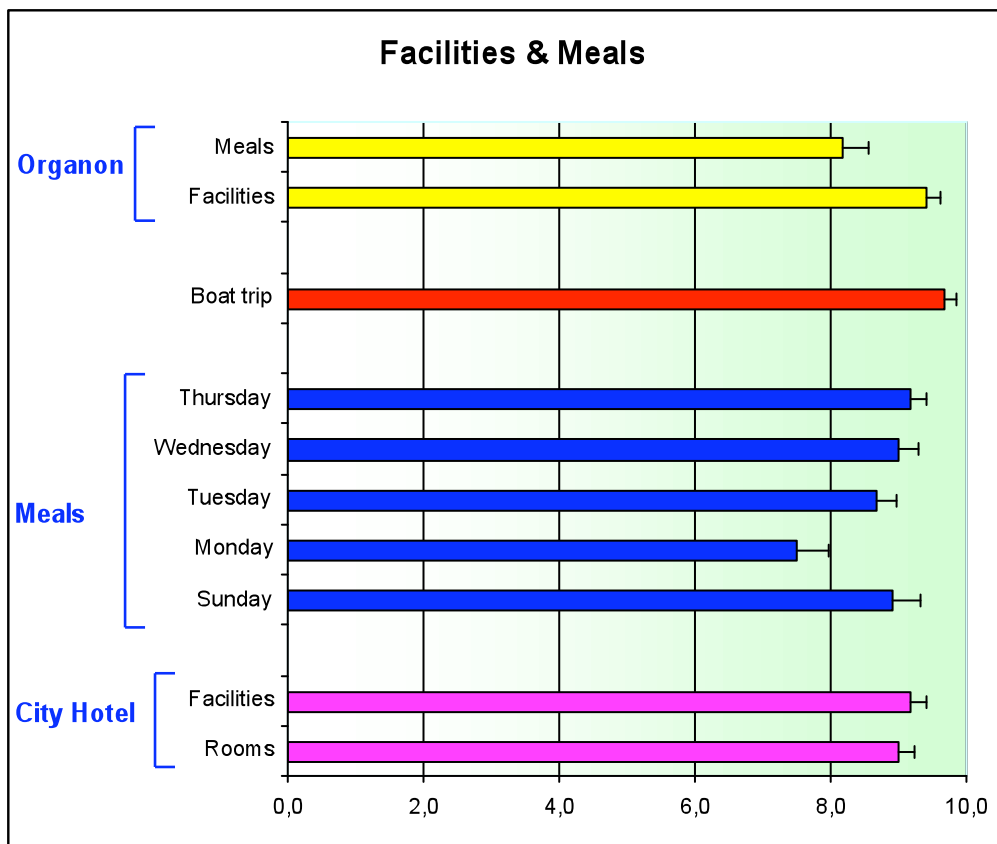
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8. How would you judge the City Hotel? (1 = poor, 10 = excellent)

The mean overall score for the City hotel was 9.0 ± 0.2 for the rooms and 9.2 ± 0.2 for the conference facilities.

9 - 11. How would you judge the facilities at Organon / Schering Plough, the restaurants and the boat trip? (1 = poor, 10 = excellent)

As can be seen from the figure below, the facilities and meals were, on average, rated quite good. Like the last time, the boat trip was very much appreciated, with an average score of 9.7 ± 0.2 . Some students remarked that the program of Wednesday and Thursday could be changed, to have a break in the lectures and to finish the course off with the boat trip. In addition several students proposed to end the day with dinner and not with a lecture, as this was too exhausting after a full belly.



12. What is your judgement for the course as a whole? (1 = poor, 10 = excellent)

The mean overall score for the course as a whole was a 9.1 ± 0.2