

Besluit

Accreditatiebesluit met een positief eindoordeel voor de opleiding Master of Economics of Globalisation and European Integration (master na master) van de Universiteit Antwerpen

datum	Samenvattende bevindingen en overwegingen
1 augustus 2016	De NVAO steunt haar inhoudelijke besluitvorming op de onderstaande elementen uit het
onderwerp	visitatierapport.
Accreditatiebesluit	
(004951)	From 11 to 12 March 2015, the Erasmus Mundus programme Advanced Master of
bijlagen	Economics of Globalisation and European Integration at the University of Antwerp has been
4	evaluated in the framework of an educational assessment by a peer review panel of
	independent experts. In this summary, which describes a snapshot, the main findings of the
	panel are listed.

Generieke kwaliteitswaarborg 1 – Beoogd eindniveau

De visitatiecommissie (commissie) beoordeelt het beoogd eindniveau als voldoende.

The Advanced Master of Economics of Globalisation and European Integration (EGEI) results from a reorientation of the former Advanced Master Economics of International Trade and European Integration (EITEI). The Advanced Master EITEI was created by a consortium of seven universities from six European countries in 1994. In 2006 the Advanced Master EITEI acquired the status of Erasmus MUNDUS Master Course. Two non- European partners joined the consortium in 2011 and the name of the programme was changed into Economics of Globalisation and European Integration (EGEI). In 2013 the Advanced Master EGEI successfully renewed its Erasmus Mundus Master Course status, again for a period of five academic years. The University of Antwerp ensures the overall coordination and leads the consortium. In 2014-2015 29 students are enrolled in the programme, coming from 15 different countries.

The programme is geared to students interested in careers in research, government, international organisations, and research and strategy departments of large banks and industrial and commercial corporations. The programme mainly focuses on a macroeconomic approach to the economics of globalisation and European integration. During its discussions with members of the teaching staff, the panel noticed differences in the way people see the ambitions of the programme. There is a need for a stronger common understanding about the exact focus of the programme and for a clear communication about this focus to the outside world. Also a more active stance towards international institutions and business would be helpful to raise the profile of the programme.

De commissie beoordeelt het onderwijsproces als voldoende.

The programme has a workload of 60 ECTS credits and consists of a compulsory core of 38 credits, an optional part of 7 credits and a dissertation of 15 credits. The students follow the courses of each of the three terms in a different country. The full group moves to three different countries, at least two of which are European. The structure of the programme is appreciated by the panel.

During the first term the emphasis lies on the basic disciplines: advanced microeconomics, advanced macroeconomics and applied econometrics. During the second and third term students deepen their knowledge of economics of European integration, open economy macroeconomics, economics of globalisation, and international trade (theory and policy). The optional advanced courses allow students to specialise in the topics they find most interesting. A stronger focus on the transfer of skills to professional contexts could further strengthen the programme. Also could there be more attention on the learning outcome about communication. Except for the language courses, communication skills do not receive a prominent place in the programme. On the other hand, the programme does offer credits for relatively introductory courses such as language courses, mathematics and academic writing. Those courses could be offered to students voluntarily for personal development and remediation where necessary and the credits could be used in place to offer students additional room for specialisation on globalisation and European integration. As indicated the programme focuses on the macroeconomic approach but more attention to the microeconomic approaches to globalisation and European integration would allow students to broaden their perspective on the topic. To some of the learning outcomes the programme pays little attention. The panel suggests a more structured approach to linking learning outcomes, courses and teaching and evaluation methods.

The eligibility criteria for students are set up commonly between the partner universities. Applicants should at least have a bachelor degree (or equivalent) and preferably a master degree in economics or applied economics and have earned at least 240 ECTS in an economics or applied economics university study programme. All students have to be fluent in English, possess the motivation to study in an international environment and be interested in and be able to perform economic research.

In most courses lecturing is the standard teaching method. Lectures are partly ex cathedra, and partly interactive (e.g. when students are asked to read material in advance and to present it in class). In the econometrics courses students are given homework and assignments to allow them to practise their new skills. In the Economics of Globalisation course students must participate in class discussions. For a number of courses students have to write essay papers. Overall the diversity of teaching methods in the current programme is relatively low. A challenge for the programme is the use of more innovative teaching methods.

Students finalise the programme with an individual dissertation (15 ECTS). The dissertation should have an original empirical part, albeit of limited scope, or contribute to theory, or be a 'meta-empirical' study, i.e. a comparative study of empirical results, with particular care to synthesis, or be a thorough critical survey of the literature (empirical and/or theoretical). This variety of types of dissertations allows students to choose an approach they prefer.

Pagina 3 van 9 At the beginning of each academic year, a welcome week is organised by the first hosting partner. The aim is to introduce students to their new environment (university, town, country), to help them settle down, to give them an opportunity to meet their professors, and to create a group feeling.

When students move to a new destination at the beginning of the second and third term, once again welcome activities are organised. At least once per term, the local coordinator sets up a meeting with students in order to find out whether there are any issues which need to be dealt with.

In all partner universities, students have access to the libraries, university restaurants and sports accommodation during the period of their stay. In some cases the benefits extend beyond the term of their stay, e.g. when students are in Bari in the third term, they still have access to the on-line library facilities of the University of Antwerp. A benefit to the students would be the use of one electronic platform where they could find all course material and other information.

The programme would benefit from more formalised internal quality assurance processes. A strength of the current programme lies in the enthusiasm and the longstanding involvement of a core group of teaching staff. As some of those leading staff members will retire soon. This might be an ideal moment to formalise internal quality assurance processes and firmly anchor the experience built up in the past.

Generieke kwaliteitswaarborg 3 – Gerealiseerd eindniveau

De commissie beoordeelt het gerealiseerde eindniveau als voldoende.

Exams are organized at the end of each term, before students move to another university. UAntwerp coordinates the planning of all examinations, collects the results, and communicates them to students. Students are informed of their examination results one or two weeks after the end of each examination period. As some courses are organized in just one or two weeks, the programme might consider organizing the examination of such courses immediately after the course.

The students are confronted with diverse examination methods. The programme relies predominantly, but not exclusively, on traditional examination methods (end-of-term written examinations). The diversity of examination methods might be increased. The consortium would like to give a greater role to external examiners, a practice which is now adopted only for the courses taught in Staffordshire University. Already now a number of courses are taught jointly by people from different universities, which undoubtedly contributes to increasing the validity and reliability of the assessment. This is the case for the core courses Economics of European Integration, Open Economy Macroeconomics, and International Trade: Theory and Policy, and for the optional course Special Topics in International Trade. This may be an example for other courses.

The dissertation is evaluated by the supervisor and by a reader. The reader cannot be from the same university as the supervisor. Both supervisor and reader evaluate the dissertation on several aspects, using a standard evaluation form. This form offers a few benchmarks to guide the grading of the dissertation. If there is a large difference between the marks of the supervisor and the reader, the academic coordinator at UAntwerp informs both, asks them whether they stand by their marks, and may decide to ask a third person for an independent evaluation.

Pagina 4 van 9 Based on the dissertations the panel has checked, it comes to the conclusion that the overall quality of the dissertations is high.

On the whole more than 90% of the students enrolled for the programme graduated. Between 1994-1995 and 2011-2012 the average success rate was 92%. Taken into account the (provisional) number of graduates of the 2012-2013 and 2013-2014 intakes, the success rate is virtually unchanged at 91%. A majority of students have graduated at the end of the year in which they enrolled (84% success rate).

Alumni are successful, both in academia and in business, government or international organisations, including the EU. In 2011 a survey was conducted which led to the collection of information on 235 alumni of the programme. Nearly 30% are active in academia, 20% in the banking sector. 16% is active in services/consulting and about 10% in international institutions. The programme should also invest in better external relations and communication to help alumni in their search for high level jobs.

Eindoordeel commissie

De commissie heeft vastgesteld dat de opleiding Master of Economics of Globalisation and European Integration (master na master) voldoet aan alle generieke kwaliteitswaarborgen. Ze beoordeelt de kwaliteit van de opleiding als voldoende.

Aanbevelingen commissie

De NVAO onderschrijft de aanbevelingen van de commissie.

Bevindingen NVAO

- Het visitatierapport is opgesteld en onderbouwd overeenkomstig het toepasselijke Kader voor de opleidingsaccreditatie 2de ronde (8 februari 2013);
- De commissie heeft voor de externe beoordeling het visitatieprotocol gevolgd zoals vastgesteld door de Vlaamse Universiteiten en Hogescholen Raad (augustus 2013);
- Het visitatierapport geeft inzicht in de samenstelling van de commissie;
- Het visitatierapport bevat een onderzoek ten gronde naar de aanwezigheid van voldoende generieke kwaliteitswaarborgen.

betreffende de accreditatie van de Master of Economics of Globalisation and European Integration (master na master) van de Universiteit Antwerpen.

De NVAO,
Na beraadslaging,
Besluit:

Met toepassing van de Codex Hoger Onderwijs, in het bijzonder de artikelen II.133-II.149, besluit de NVAO accreditatie te verlenen aan de opleiding Master of Economics of Globalisation and European Integration (master na master) georganiseerd door de Universiteit Antwerpen. De opleiding wordt aangeboden te Antwerpen, Stoke-on-Trent, Praha, Bari, Santander, Brussel-Hoofdstad, Lille, Xiamen, Brasilia. Het betreft een opleiding zonder afstudeerrichtingen. De kwaliteit van de opleiding is voldoende.

De accreditatie geldt van 1 oktober 2016 tot en met 30 september 2024.

Den Haag, 1 augustus 2016

De NVAO
Voor deze:



Marc Luwel
(bestuurder)

¹ Het ontwerp van accreditatiebesluit werd aan de instelling bezorgd voor eventuele opmerkingen en bezwaren. Bij e-mail van 14 juli 2016 heeft de instelling laten weten geen opmerkingen te hebben.

De onderstaande tabel geeft per generieke kwaliteitswaarborg het globaal oordeel van de NVAO weer, alsook het eindoordeel.

Generieke kwaliteitswaarborg

Oordeel	
1. Beoogd eindniveau	Voldoende
2. Onderwijsproces	Voldoende
3. Gerealiseerd eindniveau	Voldoende
Eindoordeel opleiding	Voldoende

Naam instelling	Universiteit Antwerpen
Adres instelling	Prinsstraat 13 B-2000 ANTWERPEN
Aard instelling	ambtshalve geregistreerd
Naam associatie	Associatie Universiteit en Hogescholen Antwerpen (AUHA)
Naam opleiding (Graad, kwalificatie, specificatie)	Master of Economics of Globalisation and European Integration
Niveau en oriëntatie	Master na master
Bijkomende titel	Master of Economics of Globalisation and European Integration
Opleidingsvarianten: – Afstudeerrichtingen – Studietraject voor werkstudenten	Geen
Onderwijstaal	Engels
Vestigingen opleiding	Antwerpen, Stoke-on-Trent, Praha, Bari, Santander, Brussel-Hoofdstad, Lille, Xiamen, Brasilia
Studieomvang (in studiepunten)	60
Vervaldatum accreditatie, tijdelijke erkenning of erkenning nieuwe opleiding	30 september 2016
Academieja(a)r(en) waarin opleiding wordt aangeboden ²	2015 – 2016 en volgende
(Delen van) studiegebied(en)	Economische en toegepaste economische wetenschappen
ISCED benaming van het studiegebied	0311 Economics

² Betreft het lopende academiejaar, op het ogenblik van de accreditatieaanvraag

The graduate is able:

1. To demonstrate a systematic understanding of key areas of economic knowledge, concepts, theories and techniques of importance in the professional practice of economics.
2. To critically evaluate concepts, theories and techniques and their application to contemporary problems in economics.
3. To undertake independent learning required to advance knowledge and understanding and to develop new skills for continuing professional development in the area of economics, exercising initiative, personal responsibility and self-direction.
4. To communicate concepts, results and conclusions in a manner that facilitates the implementation of sound decisions both to specialist and non-specialist audiences.
5. To demonstrate transferable skills and application of knowledge of importance for employment as a professional economist and related occupations.
6. To demonstrate a systematic understanding of and an ability to appraise and apply appropriate theory and institutional knowledge of international trade and European integration and to critically appraise a range of EU policies.
7. To exercise the initiative, planning and personal responsibility necessary to live, study and function effectively in other European countries.
8. To demonstrate the ability to pursue a research dissertation from definition through planning, execution, interpretation and analysis of data to completed dissertation in an area connected to international trade and European integration.
9. To systematically evaluate complex issues in the fields of globalisation and European integration.
10. To make sound judgments in the absence of complete data and to communicate these clearly to both academic and business audiences.

Voorzitter:

- Prof. dr. Bart Jourquin, professor Université Catholique de Louvain, Mons (FUCaM); vice rector UCL Université Catholique de Louvain, en voorheen rector FUCaM, directeur van de Louvain school of management.

Leden:

- Prof. dr. Marno Verbeek, professor of Finance, Rotterdam School of Management, Erasmus University Nederland;
- Prof. dr. Ilke Van Beveren, Assistant professor KU Leuven, Faculty of Economics and Business, Antwerp campus (Carolus) & Leuven campus, Center for Economic Studies en Research Fellow, IRES, Department of Economics, UC Louvain, Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium;
- Mevr. Eline Biesmans, Studente Master Maritieme Wetenschappen, Universiteit Antwerpen, Bachelor of Science in Sociologie, UGent, Master of Science in Toegepaste Economische Wetenschappen, UGent (student-lid).

Pieter-Jan Van de Velde, stafmedewerker kwaliteitszorg verbonden aan de Cel Kwaliteitszorg van Vlaamse Universiteiten en Hogescholen Raad (tot 31 december 2015) en Klara De Wilde, coördinator kwaliteitszorg verbonden aan de Cel Kwaliteitszorg van Vlaamse Universiteiten en Hogescholen Raad (vanaf 1 januari 2016), traden op als projectbegeleider en secretaris van deze visitatie.