

## Besluit

## **Accreditatiebesluit met een positief eendoordeel met beperkte geldigheidsduur voor de opleiding Master of Science in Nutrition and Rural Development (master) van de Universiteit Gent**

datum	<b>Samenvattende bevindingen en overwegingen</b>
2 februari 2017	De NVAO steunt haar inhoudelijke besluitvorming op de onderstaande elementen uit het visitatierapport.
onderwerp	
Definitief accreditatiebesluit (004935)	From 20 to 22 May 2014, the Master of Science in Nutrition and Rural Development at Ghent University has been evaluated in the framework of an educational assessment by a peer review panel of independent experts.

Generieke kwaliteitswaarborg 1 – Beoogd eindniveau

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

The Master of Science in Nutrition and Rural Development aims to train specialists capable of functioning in a multidisciplinary team and of outlining, implementing and evaluating integrated policies, adjusted to the specific needs and possibilities of developing countries. The students are trained in scientific and applied research in fields related to their main subject and major. Their education should contribute to sustainable rural development, guaranteeing food and nutrition security and eradicating poverty and inequality.

Based on the above findings, assessments and arguments, the panel considers that there are insufficient generic quality assurances with respect to the intended learning outcomes. The panel believes that the programme-specific learning outcomes are insufficiently attuned to the profile of the programme. The panel takes the view that due to the lack of inter- and multidisciplinarity in the programme-specific learning outcomes and the lack of proper benchmarking, there are insufficient guarantees that the programme-specific learning outcomes are consistent with the current requirements of the professional field and the discipline with regard to the content of the programme from an international perspective. The panel therefore considers it necessary for the programme management to hold thorough discussions on the profile of the programme and associated clear learning outcomes. The integrational character of the programme needs to be firmly based in both the profile and the programme-specific learning outcomes.

The programme counts 120 ECTS and consists of two years. In the first semester of the first year, basic courses are given to guarantee that all required fundamental, in-depth and high-level knowledge has been acquired by each of the students coming from diverse educational backgrounds. These courses amount to 30 ECTS. In the following semesters, more main profile-specific knowledge is transferred, combined with a number of interdisciplinary common courses depending on the main profile and major chosen. During the third and fourth semesters, students follow the disciplinary specialized courses they have chosen to fine-tune their programme in addition to the obligatory/standard courses. Throughout this period they work on their master's thesis.

The programme has some room for elective courses: 10 ECTS for Human Nutrition, 15 ECTS for Tropical Agriculture and 20 ECTS for Rural Economics and Management. As optional course(s) students can choose an internship and extended internship. The programme has three specializations: Human Nutrition, Rural Economics and Management, and Tropical Agriculture.

The programme involves lectures, guided self-study, group work, coached exercises and independent work. There are differences according to each main subject, but overall around 23% is given as lectures (mainly in the first semester) and 20% as guided self-study. The group work is used for developing communication skills and an attitude to work in a multi-disciplinary manner. Human Nutrition and Rural Economics and Management are more focused on group work, while Tropical Agriculture dedicates about 10% of the curriculum to practicals but has more excursions.

A Post Doc has been officially nominated to deliver study counseling activities for all students requesting this service. Permanent assistance is offered by lecturers and assistants through specific contact hours or through e-mail and even through Skype. Students are also supported by a learning path coordinator in the development of their personal programme. At programme level, there is daily assistance from a scientific and administrative coordinator. The scientific coordinator fulfills the role of ombudsperson.

A recently created International Training Center is currently optimizing the organizational framework for study counseling, dealing among other things with student support, alumni policy and campus interaction among students and staff.

All courses are taken in the Faculty, except the practicals for animal production. The infrastructure is adequate but rather old fashioned. At the Faculty, a central library is available, while some departments still maintain a smaller library.

In conclusion, the panel is of the opinion that, given the current learning outcomes, the programme is adequately structured, with a sufficient variety of teaching methods. The intake policy is adequate. Overall the panel is satisfied with the staff quality and the international experience of the staff, although there is some concern about the quality of courses taught by Post Docs. Some other matters of concern remain. The interdisciplinary character must be made more explicit and visible in the programme, students should have more guidance when choosing electives, and there is a low input of students in Tropical Agriculture in combination with a very low student satisfaction.

De commissie beoordeelt het gerealiseerde eindniveau als voldoende.

The evaluation methods most used in the programme are 'written exam', 'work', 'oral exam' and 'report', with some differentiation according to the main subject. Tropical Agriculture for instance places more emphasis on 'practical work' as the students have more lab-practicals. Human Nutrition has a high score for written exams, partly because of the larger student numbers.

Overall, written exams are used in a quarter to a third of the evaluations. Peer assessment and portfolios are not used as evaluation methods, although peer review exercises are organised for the master's thesis development. In some course units the lecturer gives examples of examquestions throughout the semester, or organises pre-tests and mid-term tests with written feedback afterwards. The master's thesis has to be defended in public.

The programme has had a number of low-performing students, continuing for several years. Since the academic year 2013 – 2014, a more stringent procedure has been implemented to avoid such situations. This seems to have had an immediate effect. The progression rate is rather unequal over the three specializations. Between the start of the programme in 2007 – 2008 and 2013, 81% of Human Nutrition students obtained the degree within 2 years. For Rural Economics and Management and Tropical Agriculture the numbers are, respectively, 63% and 74%.

Information on employability is somewhat scarce. An International Training Centre has started organizing a data bank for foreign alumni.

In conclusion, the panel finds that the learning outcomes are achieved. The assessment methods are in general adequate and there is sufficient variety in assessment forms. Master's thesis quality and exams prove that in most cases critical analysis and application skills are reached

#### *Eendoordeel commissie*

De commissie heeft vastgesteld dat de opleiding Master of Science in Nutrition and Rural Development (master) niet voldoet aan alle generieke kwaliteitswaarborgen. Ze beoordeelt de kwaliteit van de opleiding als voldoende met beperkte geldigheidsduur.

Het "reglement tot bepaling van de bestuursbeginselen die van toepassing zijn bij de besluitvorming inzake accreditatie, instellingsreview en toets nieuwe opleiding ten aanzien van opleidingen, dan wel instellingen in de Vlaamse Gemeenschap" stelt het volgende: (Art. 28.§1 "Een accreditatieaanvraag die gestoeld is op een visitatierapport dat aangeeft dat de opleiding of één of meerdere opleidingsvarianten slechts voldoen aan één of twee generieke kwaliteitswaarborgen is voorzien van een herstelplan dat betrekking heeft op de als onvoldoende beoordeelde generieke kwaliteitswaarborgen voor de betrokken opleiding(svariant)(en). Het herstelplan omvat een beknopte, doch heldere weergave van de voorziene acties, middelen en indicatoren, gesitueerd binnen een realistisch tijdskader dat de in artikel 27 bedoelde maximale termijn van drie jaar niet mag overschrijden."

De NVAO heeft vastgesteld dat de opleiding aan haar accreditatieaanvraag een herstelplan heeft toegevoegd. Conform het reglement bestuursbeginselen (Art.28§1) heeft de NVAO het herstelplan op 19 oktober 2016 voorgelegd aan drie leden van de commissie, zijnde:

- Prof.dr.ir. W. Rulkens (voorzitter);
- Prof.dr. E. Feskens (domeindeskundige);
- Dr. J. Lenvain (domeindeskundige).

Op 17 november 2017 heeft de commissie haar oordeel over het herstelplan gegeven. De commissie concludeert samenvattend dat het herstelplan afdoende is. De voorgestelde kwaliteitsverbetering van de opleiding geniet het vertrouwen van de commissie.

### **Aanbevelingen**

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 gevuld 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.

De NVAO volgt het eindoordeel van de visitatiecommissie: voldoende met beperkte geldigheidsduur.

Pagina 5 van 14 **Besluit**<sup>1</sup>

betreffende de accreditatie van de Master of Science in Nutrition and Rural Development (master) van de Universiteit Gent.

De NVAO,  
Na beraadslaging,  
Besluit:

Met toepassing van de Codex Hoger Onderwijs, in het bijzonder de artikelen II.133-II.149, besluit de accreditatie met beperkte geldigheidsduur te verlenen aan de opleiding Master of Science in Nutrition and Rural Development (master) georganiseerd door de Universiteit Gent. De opleiding wordt aangeboden te Gent met de volgende afstudeerrichtingen: Human Nutrition; Rural Economics and Management; Tropical Agriculture. De kwaliteit van de opleiding voldoende met beperkte geldigheidsduur. De NVAO kent een accreditatie toe voor een periode van drie jaar.

De accreditatie met beperkte geldigheidsduur geldt van 1 oktober 2016 tot en met 30 september 2019.

Den Haag, 2 februari 2017

De NVAO  
Voor deze:

1.0. 

Marc Luwel  
(bestuurder)

Tegen dit besluit kan op grond van het bepaalde in de Algemene wet bestuursrecht door een belanghebbende bezwaar worden gemaakt bij de NVAO. De termijn voor het indienen van bezwaar bedraagt zes weken.

---

<sup>1</sup>

Het ontwerp accreditatiebesluit werd aan de instelling bezorgd voor eventuele opmerkingen en bezwaren. De instelling heeft geen gebruik gemaakt van de gelegenheid om te reageren.

Pagina 6 van 14 **Bijlage 1: Globale oordelen NVAO**

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

**Generieke kwaliteitswaarborg**

Oordeel	
1. Beoogd eindniveau	Onvoldoende
2. Onderwijsproces	Voldoende
3. Gerealiseerd eindniveau	Voldoende
<b>Eindoordeel opleiding</b>	<b>Voldoende met beperkte geldigheidsduur</b>

Pagina 7 van 14 **Bijlage 2 Basisgegevens over de instelling en de opleiding**

Naam instelling	Universiteit Gent
Adres instelling	Sint-Pietersnieuwstraat 25 B-9000 GENT
Aard instelling	Ambtshalve geregistreerd
Naam associatie	Associatie Universiteit Gent
Naam opleiding (Graad, kwalificatie, specificatie)	Master of Science in Nutrition and Rural Development
Niveau en oriëntatie	Master
Bijkomende titel	Geen
Opleidingsvarianten: – Afstudeerrichtingen – Studietraject voor werkstudenten	– Human Nutrition – Rural Economics and Management – Tropical Agriculture
Onderwijsstaal	Engels
Vestiging opleiding	Gent
Studieomvang (in studiepunten)	120
Vervaldatum accreditatie, tijdelijke erkenning of erkenning nieuwe opleiding	30 september 2016
Academieja(a)r(en) waarin opleiding wordt aangeboden <sup>2</sup>	2015 – 2016
(Delen van) studiegebied(en)	Toegepaste biologische wetenschappen
ISCED benaming van het studiegebied	05 Natural sciences, mathematics and statistics; 08: Agriculture, forestry, fisheries and veterinary

---

<sup>2</sup> Betreft het lopende academiejaar, op het ogenblik van de accreditatieaanvraag.

De leerresultaten van deze masters bouwen voort op deze van de bachelor in de bio-ingenieurswetenschappen.

1. Grondige kennis en inzicht (theoretisch en praktisch) hebben van interdisciplinaire domeinen zoals: voedsel en voeder productie, rurale economie en ontwikkeling, (volksgezondheid gerelateerde) voeding, algemeen management,... alsook van de opleidingsspecifieke (en daarin gekozen major) domeinen. De beide programma's hebben bijzondere aandacht voor de internationale samenwerking (in het bijzonder met de ontwikkelingslanden).
2. Theorieën en methodes kunnen toepassen om de opleidingsspecifieke problemen te beschrijven, te definiëren en te analyseren zoals: voedsel, voeding, nationale en internationale landbouw, voedselsovereiniteit, -veiligheid en –zekerheid; het beheer van natuurlijke bronnen, duurzame productie,.....
3. Adequate instrumenten, methoden, modellen en vernieuwende hulpmiddelen kunnen ontwerpen en implementeren om opleidingsspecifieke en gerelateerde interdisciplinaire problemen te analyseren en te evalueren in de context van duurzame ontwikkeling.
4. Interdisciplinaire instrumenten toepassen om nationaal en internationaal beleid, programma's en projecten te ontwerpen, te implementeren, op te volgen en te evalueren.
5. Het belang en de grootte van een probleem binnen het studiedomein inschatten, strategieën definiëren om in te grijpen en/of om lacunes in de kennis te identificeren. Een onderzoeksprotocol ontwikkelen gebaseerd op strikte bewijsvoering, een onderzoeksplan opstellen, de gegevens analyseren en interpreteren en de resultaten presenteren.
6. Geschikte onderzoeksmethodes en -technieken identificeren, selecteren en toepassen om gegevens te verzamelen, te analyseren en kritisch te interpreteren.
7. Kritisch reflecteren op programmaspecifieke kwesties en op ethische en waardegerelateerde aspecten van onderzoek en interventiestrategieën.
8. Een transdisciplinaire rol opnemen in een interdisciplinair (inter)nationaal team dat werkt rond globale uitdagingen en een globaal perspectief uitbouwt.
9. Op professionele wijze een dialoog voeren en communiceren met verschillende doelgroepen en actoren, gaande van vakgenoten tot een breder publiek waarbij op efficiënte wijze (eigen) onderzoek- en projectresultaten worden verspreid.
10. Aangepaste communicatie en gedrag effectief hanteren in samenlevingen met een andere taal en cultuur.
11. Een houding verwerven van permanente kritische reflectie (individueel en in discussie met anderen) i.v.m. persoonlijke kennis, vaardigheden, attitudes, functionering en van levenslang leren.

Pagina 9 van 14 **Bijlage 4: Samenstelling van de commissie**

Voorzitter:

- Prof. dr. ir. Wim Rulkens, em. hoogleraar Milieutechnologie, Wageningen University.

Leden:

- Prof. dr. ir. Akke van der Zijpp, em. hoogleraar Dierlijke Productiesystemen, Wageningen University;
- Prof. dr. Gerrit Heil, Director Undergraduate School bètawetenschappen, Utrecht University;
- Prof. dr. Dietrich Knorr, hoogleraar Food technology, Berlin University of Technology;
- Prof. Guy Garrod, Reader in Environmental Economics, Newcastle University;
- Dr. ir. Jaak Lenvain, ontwikkelingsexpert voor VLIR-UOS;
- Dr. Karin Scager, senior adviseur, Interfacultair Instituut voor Lerarenopleiding, Onderwijsontwikkeling en Studievaardigheden, Universiteit Utrecht (onderwijsdeskundige);
- Mevr. Marie Loveniers, 2MA bio-ingenieurswetenschappen: biosysteemtechniek, KU Leuven (student-lid).

Tot projectbegeleider van de visitatie en secretaris van de commissie zijn benoemd:

- Dhr. Wouter Teerlinck, stafmedewerker kwaliteitszorg;
- Dhr. Peter Daerden, stafmedewerker kwaliteitszorg;
- Dhr. Jasper Stockmans, stafmedewerker kwaliteitszorg.



### Accreditation Flanders – Assessment improvement plan

Name and orientation programme: Master of Science Nutrition and Rural Development (master)

Institution: Ghent University

File #: 004935

#### Generic quality standard(s) that were judged to be unsatisfactory:

- Generic quality standard 1: Targeted Learning Outcomes

#### Committee members:

- prof. dr. ir. Wim Rulkens (chair);
- prof. dr. Edith Feskens;
- dr. Jaak Lenvain.

#### Explanatory notes to this form:

The committee assesses whether the improvement plan of the programme is conclusive, i.e. adequate and feasible. In the improvement plan, the programme describes the following elements for each generic quality standard that was judged to be unsatisfactory:

- the actions the programme will deploy to repair the deficiencies and to put into practice the recommendations given in the assessment report;
- the necessary means the programme will employ to realise these actions;
- the indicators the programme will use to assess these improvements;
- a realistic time frame of maximally three years to realise these actions.

The committee indicates whether the programme meets each of these criteria and briefly motivates the judgements made. Finally, the committee judges whether the improvement plan as a whole is conclusive.

**Criterion 1: Actions**

*The programme shows the actions that will be deployed to repair the deficiencies. By means of these actions, the programme puts into practice the recommendations of the assessment committee.*

Judgement: satisfactory

Rationale:

The plan includes a large number of actions to address all the issues raised by the Assessment Committee.

The programme is being slimmed down by dropping 2 of the 3 main subjects and will concentrate mainly on Nutrition with 2 majors: "Public Health Nutrition" and "Nutrition Security and Management". As explained in their vision the programme will consider inputs from agriculture and other disciplines more as nutrition sensitive than nutrition specific. This on its own will already improve the coherence of the programme significantly.

The programme developed a remediation plan in cooperation with the faculty of Bioscience Engineering, the Department of Educational Policy of UGent, teaching and research staff of the programme, students and a newly installed advisory board including potential employers and external academia.

Revised programme learning outcomes are proposed and steps are described to implement these in the courses. Integration of these programme learning outcomes in the course learning outcomes is ensured.

The programme is committed to have all lecturers and courses aligned to the revised learning outcomes of the programme.

A national and international benchmarking was made. From this benchmarking it can be concluded that the MSc Nutrition and Rural Development, UGent is uniquely situated and complements existing training offered by the top academic institutions in the world.

**Criterium 2: Means**

*The programme mentions the necessary means that will be used to realise these actions. These means are adequate and sufficient to accomplish the intended purpose.*

Judgement: satisfactory

Rationale:

The UGent and the faculty of Bioscience Engineering have a long standing experience with "International Course Programmes" (ICP) at master level and a more than average motivated staff for Development Cooperation.

Staff and facilities are all in place as the remediation plan aims mainly at focusing on the essential of the reviewed programme (scaling down on subjects) and aligning all teaching components towards the learning outcomes of the programme.

The programme has the support of all stakeholders.

**Criterium 3: Indicators**

*The programme provides adequate indicators that will be used to assess the improvements.*

Judgement: satisfactory

Rationale:

- Decision to slim down the programme has been taken and will be put into practice from the academic year 17-18 onward.
- All stakeholders has been consulted in order to remediate the master programme.
- Benchmarking has increased and the programme is satisfied with their more holistic approach emphasising global aspects and underlying determinants compared to other similar programmes.
- A new vision on the programme has been developed and the learning outcomes of the programme are more focused.
- Increased responsibilities for Core Group, Study Programme Committee and Advisory Board.
- Revision and aligning of course contents in accordance with the programme learning outcomes during academic year 16 -17. Evaluation and fine tuning of the new contents and the end of the academic year 17-18.
- From June 16 onwards students with interest for a Master in Tropical Agriculture or Rural Economics and Management will be discouraged to register for the old programme and be guided to alternative programmes.

**Criterium 4: Time frame**

*The remedial actions are set within a realistic time frame of maximally three years. The time frame set is appropriate for the foreseen actions (not too long, not too short).*

Judgement: satisfactory

Rationale:

Time frame and actions towards a successful implementation as presented in the remediation plan (pages 12, 13 and 14) are comprehensive and satisfactory. The table includes actions, actors, milestones (indicators), means of verification and a timing.

The remediation started already in April 16 and before by producing the learning outcomes of the new programme.

By the end of the academic year in 17 they foresee to be ready with the new ECTS file proposals to be published in the UGent database OASIS.

By the time the new programme will be on trial in October 2017 they will have spent a time of 18 month to remediate and prepare the revised programme.

Quote from the remediation plan page 11 : "During the academic year 17–18 the revised programme and course learning outcomes will be evaluated again and fine-tuned so that the new course content will be consolidated for the year after."

**Final judgement: The improvement plan is conclusive**

*The improvement plan is adequate and feasible.*

Judgement: satisfactory

Rationale:

The Committee has judged the four criteria: 1. *the actions the programme will deploy to repair the deficiencies and to put into practice the recommendations given in the assessment report,* 2. *the*

*necessary means the programme will employ to realise these actions, 3. the indicators the programme will use to assess these improvements, 4. a realistic time frame of maximally three years to realise these actions, as satisfactory.*

The Committee is of the opinion that the programme has responded to the assessment of the Assessment Panel with a plan, which demonstrates they take the criticism seriously and are motivated to improve the study programme. A large number of actions are proposed which are likely to lead to an improved programme within three years.

The academics and professionals behind the programme are competent and have a long tradition in setting up and managing master programmes. The committee is confident that they will manage the changes as outlined in the remediation plan.

The Committee is convinced by the improvement plan and believes that it addresses almost all main concerns raised by the Assessment Panel. However, there are still some remaining issues of concern. There is some concern about the line between sensitive and specific input towards "Public Health Nutrition" and "Nutrition Security and Management". Another matter of concern is that, according to the Committee, the definition of interdisciplinary as part of the new curriculum is very vague and has not been formulated specifically. In that respect the Committee is wondering whether in the Nutrition Security track, but also in the Public Health Nutrition track a course including behavioural or social science aspects would be present. The Committee recommends to address this aspect.

An issue that the Committee will address also is that in their remediation plan the programme states that Nutrition is becoming a more global issue. The Committee is of the opinion that such a statement may give rise to reconsider the name of the programme. For example, to call the programme straight forward "Public Health Nutrition and Nutrition Security" instead of "Nutrition and Rural Development". This is not meant as a direct recommendation of the Committee but more a suggestion to be considered and discussed.

Name committee chair: Prof. dr.ir. Wim Rulkens

Date: 17 November 2016

Signature:

