

Besluit

Toetsingsrapport met een positieve beoordeling van de aanvraag 'Toets nieuwe opleidingen' van de opleiding Master of Science in Comparative Vertebrate Morphology (master) van Universiteit Antwerpen

datum 1 Inleiding

21 december 2012

onderwerp Bij brief van 5 juni 2012 heeft het instellingsbestuur van Universiteit Antwerpen (namens consortium) een aanvraag 'Toets nieuwe opleidingen' ingediend voor de opleiding Master of Science in Comparative Vertebrate Morphology (master). Deze aanvraag is ontvangen op 12 juni 2012 en ontvankelijk verklaard op 22 juni 2012.

Definitief toetsingsrapport en -
besluit TNO
(000585)

bijlage

2 De Universiteit Antwerpen is penvoerder en aanvrager namens een consortium bestaande uit de volgende partnerinstellingen:

1. Universiteit Antwerpen – Faculteit Farmaceutische, Biomedische en Diergeneeskundige Wetenschappen – campus drie eiken – Universiteitsplein 1 – 2610 Wilrijk
2. Justus-Liebig Universität Gießen- Frankfurter Straße 98 – 35392 Gießen, Duitsland
3. Veterinärmedizinische Universität Wien – Veterinaerplatz 1 – A1210 Wien Oostenrijk
4. Poznan University of Life Sciences – ul. Wojska Polskiego 28 – 60-637 Poznan Polen
5. Università degli Studi Napoli Federico II – Via Veterinaria 1 – 80137 Napoli Italië

De NVAO heeft voor de beoordeling van de aanvraag een commissie van deskundigen samengesteld met de volgende samenstelling:

- Em. prof. dr. Bert van Zutphen, Veterinary Faculty of Utrecht University;
- Dr. Karl Klisch, lecturer of Clinical Veterinary Anatomy, School of Veterinary Medicine and Science, University of Nottingham
- Prof. dr. med. vet. Alois Boos, director Institute of Veterinary Anatomy, Vetsuisse Faculty, University of Zurich;
- Dr. med. vet. Mahtab Bahramsultani, research associate, Institute of Veterinary Anatomy, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Leipzig;
- Anton Schuurmans, BA, Law student, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven.

Mag. Michael Ofner, Agentur für Qualitätssicherung und Akkreditierung Austria, volgde het toetsingsproces als waarnemer. Hiermee is uitvoering gegeven aan de 'ECA Principles for accreditation procedures regarding joint programmes'.

Het consortium vraagt accreditatie aan zowel bij NVAO als bij het Duitse AQAS, Agentur für Qualitätssicherung durch Akkreditierung von Studiengängen. De beoordeling van de commissie is verricht aan de hand van het Toetsingskader nieuwe opleidingen hoger onderwijs Vlaanderen (14 februari 2005) aangevuld met zeven criteria volgens het AQAS-

Pagina 2 van 10 toetsingskader. In het adviesrapport zijn deze aanvullende criteria expliciet meegenomen. Het toetsingsrapport betreft uitsluitend het toepasselijke Vlaamse kader.

Op 6 en 7 november 2012 heeft de commissie een locatiebezoek gebracht aan de instelling. Op 30 november 2012 heeft de commissie advies uitgebracht aan de NVAO. Het adviesrapport maakt integraal deel uit van het toetsingsbesluit.

2 Advies commissie

Het samenvattende advies van de commissie luidt als volgt:

A panel of peers reviewed the new master's programme 'European Master in Comparative Vertebrate Morphology', a joined effort of five European universities being the University of Antwerp, Justus Liebig University Giessen, University of Veterinary Medicine Vienna, Poznan University of Life Sciences and Università degli Studi Napoli Federico II. Judgements are made about all 6 themes and 19 standards of the NVAO assessment framework for initial accreditation: all NVAO themes and all standards are assessed as satisfactory. In addition, the panel assessed the new programme according to 7 additional standards of the AQAS framework: all AQAS standards are judged as satisfactory. The general conclusion of the panel is positive.

In general, the panel finds the programme well-structured with a good coordination. The intended learning outcomes are clearly defined. It is a first-of-its-kind master's programme with an innovative approach to education and the perspective for graduates is positive. The panel has met an enthusiastic and involved team. The quality of the programme is in general of a high level and meets international standards. Also, the quality assurance system is well-organized. Mobility (compulsory) for both students and lectures will increase their international cooperation skills. The panel appreciates the design of the dissertation where small groups of students will work together on a common research topic.

However, there are also some points for improvement. The contents and organizational aspects of the first semester, which solely exists of e-lectures, need adjustments. The panel misses a tutor, someone from teaching staff, who is specifically assigned to a small group of students during their stay abroad. The involvement of industry in setting up the programme is rather modest. It is positive the consortium has established an Advisory Board with representatives of alumni (future) and industry but the involvement of industry needs to be strengthened. The panel notices there is little time provided for supervising the master's thesis. A general outline per theme of the panel's conclusions and reviews is given hereafter.

The panel observed that the programme has aligned its goals with requirements set by international academic peers and professionals in the field of in vivo research, non-invasive imaging and molecular imaging. The programme is also aligned with the revised European directive on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes (Directive 2010/63/EU), . The curriculum corresponds with current developments in the domain of comparative vertebrate morphology, through verifiable links with current scientific theories. Therefore, the panel assesses **the theme 'Aims and objectives of the programme' as satisfactory.**

Pagina 3 van 10 The panel considers the intended learning outcomes of the programme as well-defined and appropriate for an academic master programme. The panel confirms that the **domain specific learning outcomes** of the new programme **comply with the Flemish qualification framework**. These are set at the appropriate level 7 being the **master level**. The panel also agrees with the content of the domain specific learning outcomes of the new programme.

The programme runs over a two-year period and comprises 60 ECTS credits compulsory courses, 30 ECTS credits elective courses focusing on imaging techniques or in vitro assays, and 30 ECTS credits for the dissertation. The contents of the courses are internationally oriented and peer-reviewed. The organization and location of courses are based on the expertise of the involved universities. For example, the compulsory courses on morphology will take place in Antwerp (Belgium) and in Poznan (Poland). Students can choose where to study. All lectures are given in English and studying abroad at least one semester is compulsory. The second and third semester can be switched, which means that it is possible to run the elective course before the student has passed all compulsory courses. The panel advises to evaluate this order of courses thoroughly but does not think this makes the programme impracticable. The first semester exists solely of e-lectures. The evaluation of the e-courses with dummy students is much appreciated but was still evolving. This will probably give valuable input to adjust the e-courses, which seemed at time of site visit not yet of top-level and might be rather boring. Therefore, the panel advises to consider professional support for the further development of the e-courses. The panel is very pleased with the explicit attention for the development of research skills and attitudes. The panel values the approach of three to five students working together for the master's thesis but this team work needs to be monitored carefully. Besides that, the panel suggests to reconsider the necessity of the study of the 'local language' given the short period abroad. The workload of the programme is in accordance with legal requirements and the admission procedure is clearly defined. The panel assesses **the theme 'Curriculum' as satisfactory**.

The panel was impressed by the enthusiasm and engagement of the staff team it met during the site visit. Researchers who contribute to the development of their specific research domain will provide teaching. Where necessary, guest lecturers will be invited because of their specific expertise. Every institution has already assigned a deputy in case key staff resigns or is not (longer) available. The panel has been reassured that the expertise required to deliver the programme is available within the consortium. During the site visit it became clear the accomplishment of this programme is a result of team work among all members of the consortium. The panel assesses **the theme 'Staff' as satisfactory**.

The panel considers the facilities of the University of Antwerp, the Justus Liebig University Giessen and the University of Veterinary Medicine Vienna as being up to standards. Members of the consortium and a representative from industry have ensured that adequate equipment is (or will be made) available in both Poznan University of Life Sciences and Università degli Studi Napoli Federico II. Tutoring is well organized at various levels, though the panel recommends appointing a tutor (someone from the teaching staff) who is specifically assigned to a small group of students during their stay abroad. All the involved universities have assured the panel that their departments of internationalization are experienced in supporting students from abroad (for example with housing and administrative procedures). The consortium has already developed an attractive and informative website for this new programme. The e-learning platform(Blackboard) is up to

Pagina 4 van 10 standards and will be used by all students. The panel assesses **the theme 'Services' as satisfactory.**

The consortium will use one quality assurance system, coordinated by the academic coordinator of the University of Antwerp. All relevant stakeholders (lecturers, students, alumni and professionals) are taken into account. There is a central role for the Academic Board, which consists of seven members (one lecturer of each participating university, one student and one representative of the Advisory Board) and the academic coordinator presides the Academic Board. The Advisory Board consists of representatives of alumni (in the near future) and the professional field. The involvement of industry is rather modest and needs to be strengthened. Nevertheless, the panel appreciates the already well-structured design of the quality assurance system and therefore assesses **the theme 'Internal quality assurance system' as satisfactory.**

During the site visit the representatives of the board of the involved institutions expressed their commitment to the programme, assuring that students can complete the programme. The coordination agreement is signed by all partners. The panel concludes that the facilities are adequate to start the programme but it is crucial to evaluate the level of facilities available at least yearly. There are neither extra investments nor financial provisions for this programme. The consortium has been selected for five years of funding by the Erasmus Mundus programme of the European Commission. The panel assesses **the theme 'Conditions for continuity' as satisfactory** but recommends the consortium to start thinking of financial provisions in case the funding of Erasmus Mundus stops.

All parts of the application file were formulated in English. All universities have a policy regarding students with special needs. Each module accounts for at least five ECTS credits except 2 elective courses. These two courses deal with highly specialized topics, which build further on previous course contents and skills. The 3 ECTS credits covered by these two courses reflect the number of hours teaching and practical and the associated workload. Each module is concluded with an examination and, if necessary, a re-examination. The website of Eucomor (<http://www.eucomor.net>) provides information about the availability and location of modules which can be followed. The cooperation agreement is documented and signed by all partners of the consortium. Each student will receive a joint Master's degree and a diploma supplement presenting the details of the participant's academic programme and academic achievement. Students can be granted special educational facilities or recognition of previously acquired competencies, credits or qualifications to the student concerned. The panel assesses **the theme 'AQAS' as satisfactory.**

Given these considerations, the panel advises the NVAO and AQAS to take a positive decision regarding the quality of the new programme.

De NVAO komt tot de volgende vaststellingen:

1. De werkwijze van de commissie bij de beoordeling van de aanvraag Toets nieuwe opleiding van de Universiteit Antwerpen voor de opleiding Master of Science in Comparative Vertebrate Morphology (master) is zorgvuldig en gedegen geweest. De gevolgde werkwijze en procedure alsmede geraadpleegde informatiebronnen zijn helder en nauwkeurig geformuleerd en vermeld;
2. De commissie heeft haar oordeel opgesteld en onderbouwd overeenkomstig het toepasselijke Toetsingskader nieuwe opleidingen hoger onderwijs Vlaanderen van de NVAO en heeft de daarbij behorende beslisregels gevolgd. Op het niveau van de facetten zijn de analyses van de commissie duidelijk en consistent, en ze leiden tot heldere conclusies. Op het niveau van de onderwerpen zijn de oordelen over de facetten op juiste en zorgvuldige wijze afgewogen en neergelegd in heldere conclusies.
3. De commissie heeft verklaard dat het voorgestelde domeinspecifiek leerresultatenkader in overeenstemming is met de niveaudecriptoren van het niveau 7 uit de Vlaamse kwalificatiestructuur.
4. De commissie adviseert de NVAO het domeinspecifieke leerresultatenkader te valideren.

De NVAO is in het licht van het vorenstaande tot de slotsom gekomen dat het adviesrapport zorgvuldig en gedegen tot stand is gekomen en dat het eindoordeel deugdelijk is gemotiveerd. De NVAO kan zich dan ook aansluiten bij de bevindingen en overwegingen voor alle facetten en onderwerpen, zoals verwoord in het adviesrapport. De eindconclusie uit het adviesrapport wordt gevolgd.

De NVAO concludeert op basis van bovenstaande dat de nieuwe opleiding in beginsel over voldoende generieke kwaliteitswaarborgen beschikt.

Tevens valideert de NVAO het domeinspecifiek leerresultatenkader.

In de onderstaande tabel is per onderwerp en per facet het oordeel van de NVAO opgenomen.

ONDERWERP	ORDEEL	FACET	ORDEEL
1 Doelstellingen opleiding	Voldoende	1.1 niveau en oriëntatie	voldoende
		1.2 domeinspecifiek referentiekader	voldoende
2 Programma	Voldoende	2.1 eisen gerichtheid	voldoende
		2.2 relatie doelstellingen - programma	voldoende
		2.3 samenhang programma	voldoende
		2.4 studielast	voldoende
		2.5 toelatingsvoorwaarden	voldoende
		2.6 studieomvang	ok
	Voldoende	2.7 masterproef	voldoende
3 Inzet van personeel	Voldoende	3.1 eisen gerichtheid	voldoende
		3.2 kwantiteit	voldoende
		3.3 kwaliteit	voldoende
4 Voorzieningen	Voldoende	4.1 materiële voorzieningen	voldoende
		4.2 studiebegeleiding	voldoende
5 Interne kwaliteitszorg	Voldoende	5.1 systematische aanpak	voldoende
		5.2 betrekken derden	voldoende
6 Condities voor continuïteit	Voldoende	6.1 afstudeergarantie	voldoende
		6.2 investeringen	voldoende
		6.3 financiële voorzieningen	voldoende

Eindoordeel NVAO: positief

De NVAO,
Na beraadslaging,
Besluit:

Met toepassing van het decreet van 4 april 2003 betreffende de herstructurering van het hoger onderwijs in Vlaanderen, wordt besloten tot de positieve beoordeling van de aanvraag toets nieuwe opleiding Master of Science in Comparative Vertebrate Morphology (master) van de Universiteit Antwerpen op grond van de redenen aangegeven in het toetsingsrapport. Het betreft een opleiding zonder afstudeerrichtingen, die in België – Universiteit Antwerpen, Duitsland – Justus-Liebig Universität Gießen, Oostenrijk – Veterinärmedizinische Universität Wien, Polen – Poznan University of Life Sciences en Italië – Università degli Studi Napoli Federico II wordt georganiseerd.

Met toepassing van artikel 5bis van het decreet van 30 april 2004 betreffende de flexibilisering van het hoger onderwijs in Vlaanderen en houdende dringende hogeronderwijsmaatregelen wordt besloten tot het valideren van de domeinspecifiek leerresultaten van de opleiding “Master of Science in Comparative Vertebrate Morphology (master)” .

Den Haag, 21 december 2012

Namens de NVAO ter beoordeling van de toets nieuwe opleiding
Master of Science in Comparative Vertebrate Morphology (master) van de Universiteit
Antwerpen.



Lucien Bollaert
(bestuurder)

Aanvraagnummer (000585)

¹ Het ontwerp van toetsingsrapport en –besluit werd aan de instelling bezorgd voor eventuele opmerkingen en bezwaren. Bij e-mail van 19 december 2012 heeft de instelling ingestemd met het ontwerp van toetsingsrapport.