

## Besluit **Toetsingsrapport met een positieve beoordeling van de aanvraag 'Toets nieuwe opleiding' van de opleiding Master of Science in Digital Humanities (master na master) van Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (001868)**

<b>datum</b>	<b>Samenvattend advies van de visitatiecommissie</b>
<b>30 april 2014</b>	De visitatiecommissie (hierna "the panel") heeft het volgende vastgesteld ten aanzien van de opleiding Digital Humanities van de Katholieke Universiteit Leuven:
<b>onderwerp</b>	
Toetsingsrapport en -besluit	
<b>TNO</b>	NVAO received a request for an initial accreditation procedure regarding the Master of
<b>(001868)</b>	Science in Digital Humanities, an advanced Master's programme leading to an Advanced
<b>bijlage</b>	Master's Degree. The request was made by the Board of the KU Leuven and accompanied
<b>3</b>	by the information dossier.

The assessment panel gives a positive advice regarding the initial accreditation of the Master of Science in Digital Humanities to the NVAO. The panel discussed the application at a preparatory meeting, which resulted in a number of preliminary questions to the programme management, on which it received an adequate reply. During the site visit, the panel spoke to representatives of the University Board, to the Faculty Deans, the programme management and to the teaching staff and students, as well as to members of industry representing future employers. The additional explanations and materials, and in particular the discussions on site have convinced the panel that the Master of Science in Digital Humanities programme is in place and conforms to the quality standards of the framework for the initial accreditation.

The Master of Science in Digital Humanities is an Advanced Master's programme intended for academically and professionally oriented graduates from the Humanities and the Behavioral Sciences who have already made use of digital techniques in their studies, frequently through self-tuition. The programme will allow these graduates to attain a level in research and in work assignments from industry or public administration that is aided by digital techniques and that is much higher than can be attained through self-tuition. The students of the programme will be able to analyze problems by understanding the user's needs in the fields of the Humanities and the Behavioral Sciences and contribute to solutions using their detailed knowledge of the possibilities of IT tools.

The programme management formulated the Subject-specific Learning Outcomes on the basis of an international study of learning outcomes of other existing Master's programmes in Digital Humanities. The panel understands and appreciates the generic nature of the Subject-specific Learning Outcomes, as the programme is breaking new ground and is the first one of its kind in Flanders. According to the panel, the true character of the KU Leuven

Pagina 2 van 7 Digital Humanities is revealed in the programme's learning outcomes. These emphasize a practical and skill based orientation, supported by the existing expertise in the cooperating Faculties, in this case the Faculties of Sciences, Art, Psychology and Educational Sciences, and Social Sciences. The panel observed in conversations with students and members of industry that the specific focus of the programme is endorsed by these groups of stakeholders.

The panel establishes that the learning outcomes are positioned and specified at an Advanced Master's level. However, the panel advises the programme to be more specific on the possible application domains in view of the expertise present in KU Leuven, so future students know in detail what they may expect from the programme.

The programme is embedded in the Faculty of Sciences and therefore follows the guidelines concerning the educational concept of this Faculty, which relies heavily on task-based learning approaches by means of projects with concrete targets. The Master's thesis is the capstone project of the programme in which the students tackle research related questions in one of the domains of Digital Humanities. The programme aims to be as flexible as possible for adapting itself to the research questions of the students. In view of this flexibility, the admission of students not only depends on experience and competencies, but also on the ability of the programme team to determine a trajectory that fits the student's background and expectations.

The panel observed that all courses in the programme will be tailored to the specific orientation of the KU Leuven Digital Humanities. Two new staff members will join the enthusiastic staff and will manage the interdisciplinary cooperation between the Faculties involved in order to build a strong research based programme. The programme can further rely on centrally designed policies and procedures in so far as staff, facilities, services, tutoring, quality assurance and assessment are concerned. The panel singles out two areas where improvement is required. Firstly, the programme must ensure that all courses meet the desired Master's level, particularly in the case of courses that have an introductory nature. Secondly, the modular nature of the curriculum emphasizes rather than bridges the separation between the Humanities and the IT components. The panel expects that the new staff members will find a way to further connect and 'glue' the parts together. This requires a thorough understanding of the various perspectives to be adopted in the programme and in research in the Digital Humanities.

The panel is convinced by the Faculty of Sciences' approach to evaluation and is also optimistic about the project related focus on formative evaluation and the strong emphasis on variety in assessment and feedback. However, the panel also observes that the assessment still strongly relies on the good practices of the teachers from different Faculties involved in the programme. Hence, a firmer alignment and balance of requirements and criteria is needed. However, the panel is convinced that the good practices of the teachers involved and the Faculty of Sciences' evaluation policy will lead to a valid, reliable and transparent evaluation.

In sum, the panel concludes that the proposed Advanced Master's programme in Digital Humanities is a unique programme in Flemish higher education, which is well-designed, and supported by an enthusiastic and dynamic team of teaching and research staff. Thereby the programme will enable students to successfully achieve the intended learning outcomes.

Pagina 3 van 7 The panel advises the NVAO to validate the subject-specific learning outcomes as formulated in the information dossier.

#### Overzicht oordelen van de commissie

Generieke kwaliteitswaarborg	Oordeel
1 Beoogd eindniveau	Voldoende
2 Onderwijs proces	Voldoende
3 Evaluatie	Voldoende
Eindoordeel	Voldoende

#### Aanbevelingen commissie

De NVAO onderschrijft de aanbevelingen van de commissie in opbouwende zin, in het bijzonder:

- De opleiding wordt aanbevolen te bewaken dat alle onderdelen van het programma het masterniveau hebben, ook als het meer inleidende vakken betreft;
- De opleiding wordt aangeraden er op toe te zien dat de samenhang van het programma tot zijn recht komt, ondanks de modulaire structuur van de opleiding.

#### Bevindingen NVAO

De NVAO stelt op basis van het adviesrapport van de commissie vast dat de externe beoordeling overeenkomstig het toepasselijke Toetsingskader nieuwe opleidingen hoger onderwijs Vlaanderen 2<sup>de</sup> ronde (25 januari 2013) tot stand is gekomen. De gevolgde werkwijze en procedure, alsook de geraadpleegde informatiebronnen zijn helder weergegeven.

De oordelen op de generieke kwaliteitswaarborgen zijn in het adviesrapport voldoende onderbouwd en overwogen en op zorgvuldige wijze neergelegd in een eindoordeel. De NVAO kan zich dan ook aansluiten bij de bevindingen en overwegingen voor alle generieke kwaliteitswaarborgen, zoals verwoord in het adviesrapport. De eindconclusie uit het adviesrapport wordt gevolgd.

De commissie heeft verklaard dat de voorgestelde domeinspecifieke leerresultaten in overeenstemming zijn met de niveaudecriptoren van het niveau 7 uit de Vlaamse kwalificatiestructuur.

De commissie geeft aan dat de domeinspecifieke leerresultaten nog erg generiek zijn geformuleerd. Dit is begrijpelijk vanwege het nieuwe karakter van de opleiding.

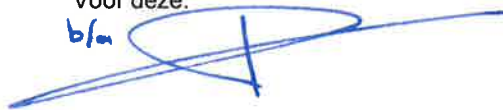
Betreffende de aanvraag toets nieuwe opleiding Digital Humanities (master na master) van de Katholieke Universiteit Leuven.

De NVAO,  
Na beraadslaging,  
Besluit:

Met toepassing van de Codex Hoger Onderwijs, in het bijzonder art. II.153 Codex Hoger Onderwijs, besluit de NVAO tot een positieve beoordeling van de aanvraag toets nieuwe opleiding Digital Humanities (master na master) van de Katholieke Universiteit Leuven. Het betreft een opleiding zonder opleidingsvarianten die te Leuven wordt georganiseerd. Tevens valideert de NVAO de domeinspecifieke leerresultaten van de opleiding Digital Humanities.

Den Haag, 30 april 2014

De NVAO  
Voor deze:

b/a 

Lucien Bollaert  
Bestuurder

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<sup>1</sup> Het ontwerp van toetsingsrapport en –besluit werd aan de instelling bezorgd voor eventuele opmerkingen en bezwaren. Bij e-mail van 25 april 2014 heeft de instelling ingestemd met het ontwerp van toetsingsrapport.

Naam, adres, telefoon, e-mailadres, website instelling	Katholieke Universiteit Leuven Oude Markt 13 – 3000 Leuven Tel: +32 16 32 37 21 www.kuleuven.be
Status instelling	Ambtshalve geregistreerd
Naam associatie	Associatie KU Leuven
Naam, functie, telefoon, e-mail contactpersoon	Prof. dr. Didier Pollefeyt – vice rector Onderwijsbeleid +32 16 32 37 21 Didier.Pollefeyt@rec.kuleuven.be
Naam opleiding (graad, kwalificatie, specificatie)	Master of Science in digital humanities
Niveau en oriëntatie	Master na master
Bijkomende titel	Geen
(Delen van) studiegebied(en)	Interdisciplinair: Wetenschappen - Taal- en letterkunde – Geschiedenis - Archeologie en kunstwetenschappen - Psychologie en pedagogische wetenschappen - Politieke en sociale wetenschappen
ISCED benaming van het studiegebied	Computer Science – Humanities – History and Archeology – Fine Arts – Psychology – Social and behavioural science – Education Science – Political science and civics
Opleidingsvarianten: - Afstudeerrichtingen - Studietraject voor werkstudenten	Geen
Onderwijstaal	Engels
Vestiging(en) opleiding	Leuven
Studieomvang (in studiepunten)	60
Nieuwe opleiding voor Vlaanderen	Ja
Aansluitingsmogelijkheden en mogelijke vervolgopleidingen	Geen

1. Possess the required competencies in digitalization techniques and tools to be able to successfully conduct research and successfully act as a professional in Digital Humanities.
2. Possess advanced knowledge and understanding of the relevance and applicability of digital tools and techniques for research questions in the Humanities or the Behavioral Sciences.
3. Have the ability to independently analyze, model and design solutions for problems involving the integration of digitalization in the Humanities or Behavioral Sciences research and to critically interpret the results of digital analysis and computationally produced out-comes.
4. Are able to critically evaluate and assess novel problems in and solutions to digitalization issues in the Humanities or Behavioral Sciences context and situate the limitation of the state of the art.
5. Are able to independently select appropriate technological means and constructively apply them to a problem in the Humanities or Behavioral Sciences.
6. Are able to independently collect, consult and critically interpret scientific sources from different media.
7. Have the ability to independently integrate digitally driven research goals and methods with discipline specific inquiry in a subfield of the Humanities or Behavioral Sciences.
8. Are able to clearly and accurately report on scientific findings in the Digital Humanities, both in written and in oral form.
9. Are able to follow-up and critically situate, within a sub domain of Digital Humanities, new scientific developments and to situate them, both in a broader context of the discipline, as in terms of their societal relevance.
10. Have a critical insight in the interdisciplinary and international dimensions of Digital Humanities (research).

**Voorzitter:**

Dr. ir. Jacques Van Remortel, voormalig directeur van het Research and Innovation departement van Alcatel Bell te Antwerpen, voorzitter.

**Leden:**

Prof. dr. Martin Valcke, hoogleraar Onderwijskunde, Universiteit Gent;

Prof. dr. Andrew Prescott, hoogleraar Digital Humanities, King's College London, Verenigd Koninkrijk;

**Student-lid:**

Ruud Verbij BSc, student in de master Technische Informatica, Universiteit Twente, Nederland.

**De commissie werd bijgestaan door:**

Thomas de Bruijn, beleidsmedewerker NVAO, procescoördinator;

Dagmar Provijn, beleidsmedewerker NVAO, secretaris.

Alle commissieleden, de procescoördinator en de secretaris hebben een onafhankelijkheids- en geheimhoudingsverklaring en ondertekend waarmee zij tevens instemmen met de NVAO gedragscode.