

## Besluit **Accreditatiebesluit met een positief eindoordeel voor de opleiding Master of Science in Digital Humanities (master-na-master) van de Katholieke Universiteit Leuven**

### **Samenvattende bevindingen en overwegingen**

<b>datum</b>	De NVAO steunt haar inhoudelijke besluitvorming op de onderstaande elementen uit het 16 augustus 2018 visitatierapport.
<b>onderwerp</b>	
<b>Definitief accreditatiebesluit</b>	From 13 to 14 November 2017, the Advanced Master of Science in Digital Humanities at KU (006985) Leuven has been 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.
<b>bijlagen</b>	
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### *Generieke kwaliteitswaarborg 1 – Beoogd eindniveau*

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

### *Profile of the programme*

The Master of Science in Digital Humanities is an advanced master's programme, organised by KU Leuven. The rationale behind the programme is the growing impact of digital tools and techniques in society at large. This impact not only affects the IT industry but all areas of society, including those that were traditionally less IT-related such as publishing, media, arts, libraries, medicine and education. The advanced master's programme aims to develop the digital competences of graduates in the Humanities and Behavioural Sciences. These competences will allow them to add digital dimensions to their own domain expertise.

The programme is intended to be of added value for at least two groups of graduates. The programme will enable research oriented graduates to support and enhance their research competences by means of non-trivial use of digital techniques such as modelling and querying databases, interconnecting and querying web resources, text-encoding and e-publishing, mining repositories and data visualisation. Professionally oriented graduates will be able to apply non-trivial digital techniques in professional contexts related to Humanities such as publishing, media, arts, libraries, medicine and education.

The study programme is supported by four different faculties. Three of them belong to the Humanities and Social Sciences Group: the faculties of Arts, Psychology & Educational Sciences and Social Sciences. The fourth is the Faculty of Science from the Science, Engineering and Technology Group.

Pagina 2 van 9 The programme is embedded in the Faculty of Science which provides the programme with the necessary administrative and organizational support.

*Generieke kwaliteitswaarborg 2 – Onderwijsleeromgeving*

De commissie beoordeelt de onderwijsleeromgeving als voldoende.

*Programme*

The Master of Science in Digital Humanities is a one year advanced master's programme. The programme (60 ECTS) includes all major areas of Digital Humanities. The general structure of the programme is organized around six components. The Introductory component provides an introduction to Digital Humanities and the required background to engage in Digital Humanities research and application development. The Management component focuses on the relationship between IT and management. The Advanced digitization component familiarizes the students with emerging technologies and applications in Digital Humanities. The component Tools for the digital world provides background in the student's selection of additional technological tools, for human-computer interfacing, web information systems, data-mining or data visualization. In the component *Application domains*, students select courses, corresponding to their interests, to the required technological tools they selected in the previous component and to their own background in the Humanities and Behavioural Sciences (HSBS). Finally, in the Master's thesis the student shows the ability to integrate the competences achieved in the other components to deliver a new scientific contribution.

The Master's thesis is the corner stone of the programme in which the students tackle research questions in one of the domains of Digital Humanities. This research can be performed in a research unit of KU Leuven and since last year also in another organization by means of an internship. The research topics are proposed by the staff but students can propose alternative topics based on their expertise in HSBS.

The programme is set up as an international programme. Lectures, courses and communication are in English. Three lecturers are non-Flemish. The programme explicitly aims at attracting international students, preferably in balance with the number of Flemish students that enrol. The amount of international students and staff adds great value to the programme.

Students can enter the study programme after a positive evaluation of the selection committee. Candidates submit an application containing detailed information on their prior studies, work experience, additional competences, proof of proficiency in English and a motivation statement. The candidates are holder of a Master's degree in Humanities, Social and Behavioural Sciences. Students with a strong background of IT are advised not to enrol in the programme. For each candidate, the decision of admission is also based on the ability of the programme management to determine a trajectory that fits the student's background and expectations.

*Services and student guidance*

The programme makes use of the infrastructure and the educational equipment of the involved faculties. Panel and students are satisfied with the infrastructure provided to the students.

Pagina 3 van 9 Students receive the necessary information concerning the programme and their study path. The small size of the group allows for very easy contact between students and staff. The interaction between students and teaching staff is found to be very stimulating. The students appreciate that the teaching staff is easily accessible.

*Generieke kwaliteitswaarborg 3 – Gerealiseerd eindniveau*

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

*Evaluation and testing*

The programme uses a good variety of assessment forms, such as projects, papers, reports, presentations, web page and blog/forum entries. They are in line with the general teaching and learning methods. The majority of the components have some form of permanent assessment.

The assessment of the Master's thesis includes the evaluation of a written text and an oral defense in front of a jury. The jury consists of the supervisor of the thesis and two additional readers. To increase the objectivity, one of the readers is selected from a research unit outside the unit in which the thesis is done. The evaluation by the jury members is done by means of an assessment roster based on the following criteria: process, content, form and defense. A scale of appreciation is available to guide the jury members on how to come to an overall mark.

The assessment of the internships follows the same procedure. The mentor in the company takes part in the assessment, together with the supervisor and an assessor. The assessment roster has slightly been changed with respect to the internships. The requirements on the research dimension are reduced and compensated by a new dimension that focuses on actively integrating competences in a working environment.

*Study success and professional opportunities*

Students and alumni are enthusiastic about the programme. They were well informed and the programme met(s) their expectations. The discussion with professionals and graduates showed how much the learning outcomes of the programme fit the needs and demands of the professional field. Graduates of this study programme are welcomed in many digital humanities projects in Europe, North America and beyond.

*Eindoordeel commissie*

De commissie heeft vastgesteld dat de opleiding Master of Science in Digital Humanities (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.

- Het visitatierapport is opgesteld en onderbouwd overeenkomstig het toepasselijke Kader Opleidingsaccreditatie – Vlaanderen 2015 – 2021 (d.d. 20 maart 2015);
- De commissie heeft voor de externe beoordeling het visitatieprotocol gevolgd zoals vastgesteld door de Vlaamse Universiteiten en Hogescholen Raad (augustus 2015);
- Het visitatierapport geeft inzicht in de samenstelling van de commissie;
- Het visitatierapport bevat een onderzoek ten gronde naar de aanwezigheid van voldoende generieke kwaliteitswaarborgen.

#### **Besluit<sup>1</sup>**

betreffende de accreditatie van de Master of Science in 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 de artikelen II.133-II.149, besluit de NVAO accreditatie te verlenen aan de opleiding Master of Science in Digital Humanities (master-na-master) georganiseerd door de Katholieke Universiteit Leuven. De opleiding wordt aangeboden te Leuven zonder afstudeerrichtingen. De kwaliteit van de opleiding is voldoende.

De accreditatie geldt van 1 oktober 2018 tot en met 30 september 2026.

Den Haag, 16 augustus 2018

De NVAO  
Voor deze:



Marc Luwel  
(bestuurder)

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<sup>1</sup> Het ontwerp van accreditatiebesluit werd aan de instelling bezorgd voor eventuele opmerkingen en bezwaren. Bij e-mail van 8 augustus 2018 heeft de instelling van de gelegenheid gebruik gemaakt om te reageren. Dit heeft geleid tot enkele tekstuele aanpassingen.

Pagina 5 van 9 **Bijlage 1: Globale oordelen NVAO**

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

**Generieke kwaliteitswaarborg**

<b>Oordeel</b>	
1. Beoogd eindniveau	Voldoende
2. Onderwijsleeromgeving	Voldoende
3. Gerealiseerd eindniveau	Voldoende
<b>Eindoordeel opleiding</b>	<b>Voldoende</b>

Naam instelling	Katholieke Universiteit Leuven
Adres instelling	Naamsestraat 22 - bus 5000 B-3000 LEUVEN
Aard instelling	Ambtshalve geregistreerd
Naam associatie	Associatie KU Leuven
Naam opleiding (Graad, kwalificatie, specificatie)	Master of Science in Digital Humanities
Niveau en oriëntatie	master-na-master
Bijkomende titel	n.v.t.
Opleidingsvarianten: – Afstudeerrichtingen – Studietraject voor werkstudenten	– Geen; – Geen.
Onderwijstaal	Engels
Vestiging opleiding	Leuven
Studieomvang (in studiepunten)	60
Vervaldatum accreditatie, tijdelijke erkenning of erkenning nieuwe opleiding	30 september 2018
Academieja(a)r(en) waarin opleiding wordt aangeboden <sup>2</sup>	2017 – 2018
(Delen van) studiegebied(en)	– Taal- en letterkunde; – Geschiedenis; – Psychologie en pedagogische wetenschappen; – Archeologie en kunstwetenschappen; – Wetenschappen; – Politieke en sociale wetenschappen.
ISCED benaming van het studiegebied	– 06 Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs); – 068 Inter-disciplinary programmes and qualifications involving Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs);

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

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– 0688 Inter-disciplinary programmes and qualifications involving Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs);</li><li>– 02 Arts and humanities;</li><li>– 028 Inter-disciplinary programmes and qualifications involving arts and humanities;</li><li>– 0288 Inter-disciplinary programmes and qualifications involving arts and humanities;</li><li>– 01 Education;</li><li>– 018 Inter-disciplinary programmes and qualifications involving education;</li><li>– 0188 Inter-disciplinary programmes and qualifications involving education;</li><li>– 03 Social sciences, journalism and information;</li><li>– 038 Inter-disciplinary programmes and qualifications involving social sciences, journalism and information;</li><li>– 0388 Inter-disciplinary programmes and qualifications involving social sciences, journalism and information.</li></ul>
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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).

*Datum validatie: 7 april 2014*



*Voorzitter:*

- Jacques Van Remortel, former director of the Research and Innovation department of Alcatel-Lucent-Bell, Antwerp;

*Leden:*

- Gregory Crane, professor of Digital Humanities and professor of Classics, University of Leipzig;
- Gerhard Lauer, professor of Digital Humanities, University of Basel;
- Liesl Van Britsom, bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature, Master's student in Theatre and Film Studies, University of Antwerp (*student-lid*).

Klara De Wilde, coordinator of the Quality Assurance Unit of the Flemish Higher Education Council, was project manager of this educational assessment and acted as secretary to the assessment panel.