

Besluit

Besluit strekkende tot een positieve beoordeling van een aanvraag toets nieuwe opleiding van de opleiding joint degree wo-master North Sea Energy Law Programme van de Rijksuniversiteit Groningen.

Gegevens

datum	Instelling	: Rijksuniversiteit Groningen
29 augustus 2014	Opleiding	: joint degree wo-master North Sea Energy Law Programme
onderwerp		
Definitief besluit	Variant	: deeltijd (postinitieel)
Toets nieuwe opleiding	Locaties	: Groningen, Kopenhagen, Oslo, Aberdeen
wo-master North Sea Energy	Studieomvang (ECTS)	: 90
Law van de Rijksuniversiteit	Datum macrodoelmatigheidsbesluit	: niet van toepassing
Groningen (002632)	Datum aanvraag	: 10 januari 2014
uw kenmerk	Datum locatiebezoek	: 13 juni 2014
13/16540	Datum paneladvies	: 7 juli 2014
ons kenmerk	Instellingstoets kwaliteitszorg	: ja, positief besluit van 29 juli 2014
NVAO/20142794/ND		
bijlage	De Rijksuniversiteit Groningen verzorgt de joint degree wo-masteropleiding North Sea Energy Law Programme in samenwerking met University of Oslo, University of Aberdeen, and University of Copenhagen	
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Beoordelingskaders

Beoordelingskader voor de beperkte toets nieuwe opleiding van de NVAO (Stcrt. 2010, nr 21523).
Protocol joint degree (NVAO d.d. 7 juni 2010)

Bevindingen

De NVAO stelt vast dat in het paneladvies deugdelijk en kenbaar is gemotiveerd op welke gronden het panel de kwaliteit van de opleiding voldoende heeft bevonden.

Samenvatting bevindingen en overwegingen van het panel.

The panel expresses its appreciation of the fact that the North Sea Energy Law Programme (NSELP) is the result of a true partnership, as is apparent in all aspects of the programme. The jointness of learning outcomes, teaching-learning environment and assessment system was discussed at length with different groups of interviewees. The panel values the alignment of the answers between different groups of interviewees, indicating that the jointness extends beyond the members of the programme management.

The energy sector and its legal framework are heavily impacted by ongoing processes such as liberalization, globalization and climate change, which is why a steady supply of professionals with specialized knowledge of Energy Law is needed. The NSELP aims to address these changes and to provide its students with adequate expertise of all relevant aspects of Energy Law.

The panel appreciates the combined academic and professional aim of the programme and finds both components to be well-balanced in the learning outcomes. The Dublin descriptors for master-level education have been taken into account and the expectations of the academic and professional community internationally are met. The panel values that the programme also has ambition with regard to written and oral communication skills, problem-solving skills and skills regarding life-long learning, these being key competences in a rapidly changing and complex discipline like Energy Law.

The panel sees that the title of the programme, North Sea Energy Law, refers to the coordinated effort by universities from North Sea states, offering a complete take on Energy Law, drawing examples from the North Sea. The panel appreciates that this is the angle taken, but asks the programme to be very clear in its communication. The term 'North Sea Law' could, according to the panel, be confusing for future students as there is no such separate discipline as 'North Sea Energy Law'.

The programme is to be registered under the heading 'Recht' of the Dutch national register for higher education programmes (CROHO), because of its focus on legal aspects.

The panel assesses standard 1 'Intended learning outcomes' as satisfactory.

Based on the information obtained in the information file and during the site visit, the panel considers the curriculum, staff and programme-specific services of NSELP to constitute a consistent and coherent teaching-learning environment, enabling students to achieve the intended learning outcomes.

The four modules of the curriculum provide students with a broad overview of the state of the art of Energy Law. The panel appreciates the interactive, small-scale learning environment that is offered and received a homogenous view throughout on how to implement this didactical approach in an academic programme aimed at professionals with legal as well as non-legal backgrounds. The panel values that attention is given to the critical analysis of cases using primary sources, but asks the programme management to investigate how academic writing skills can receive more attention in the curriculum. The panel encourages the programme to keep investing in the academic knowledge and competences of the students.

Pagina 3 van 6 The panel received ample proof that the specific setup of the programme and the interactive environment forces students to develop all knowledge, skills and attitudes the programme aims at. Still, with student numbers in future possibly rising to thirty, offering more structure in this regard may prove to be necessary to avoid students steering through the wide subject of Energy Law focusing only on subjects of their own interest.

The panel welcomes the increase from 15 to 30 EC for the thesis, but asks the programme management to closely monitor whether the theses provide the level of reflection and analysis expected at the master level. The panel trusts that the programme will develop clear guidelines, providing the students with intermediate deadlines. The panel believes that the programme needs to clarify the pedagogical status of the final symposium.

On the basis of the information received, the panel trusts that the workload for the students is up to standard and is equally distributed over the four modules. The panel suggests however that the expectations with regard to workload need to be more clearly communicated to future students as alumni of the pilot programme complained that it was more than they had expected.

The panel appreciates the case-by-case approach used for the assessment of incoming applications. Still, it asks the programme management to consider to what extent the admission requirements can be further clarified.

The enthusiasm, team spirit and cohesion expressed by all members of staff was impressive. The panel received sufficient proof of the excellent quality of internal as well as external staff. The lecturers' experience teaching professionals with legal as well as non-legal backgrounds is considered to be an important asset. The panel also values that students of NSELP have a dedicated contact person to whom they can turn with all their questions. The quantity of staff is, according to the panel, adequate.

The panel assesses standard 2 'Teaching-learning environment' as satisfactory.

The panel has established that NSELP has an adequate assessment system, which is approached jointly by the different partner institutions. The programme has a joint Exam Board for which the procedures and rules and regulations are adequately described.

The panel has received ample evidence that the current assessment system is transparent, reliable and valid. Still, the panel asks the NSELP to look critically at the limited variety of assessment methods used, against the background of ensuring that even students with very specific interests acquire all learning outcomes. The panel values that papers and theses are graded jointly in order to ensure consistency between the partner institutions, but invites NSELP to look at the issue of external review, and to ensure a common approach as much as possible.

The panel assesses standard 3 'Assessment' as satisfactory.

The partner institutions have argued convincingly that they guarantee that students will be able to finish the curriculum if they are allowed to start.

The panel assesses standard 4 'Graduation guarantee and financial provisions' as satisfactory.

Pagina 4 van 6 Given these considerations, the panel advises NVAO to take a positive decision regarding the quality of the proposed programme Master North Sea Energy Law Programme at University of Groningen, University of Oslo, University of Aberdeen, and University of Copenhagen.

Aanbevelingen

De NVAO onderschrijft de aanbevelingen van het panel, in het bijzonder over:

- de naamgeving;
- de academische vaardigheden;
- de monitoring dat het masterniveau in de eindwerken wordt bereikt;
- een duidelijke communicatie over de te verwachten studielast naar aanstaande studenten.

Besluit

Ingevolge het bepaalde in artikel 5a.10, tweede lid, in verbinding met artikel 5a.11, zesde lid, van de WHW heeft de NVAO het college van bestuur van de Rijksuniversiteit Groningen te Groningen in de gelegenheid gesteld zijn zienswijze op het voornemen tot besluit d.d. 14 juli 2014 naar voren te brengen. Bij e-mail van 1 augustus 2014, heeft mevrouw C.J.F. Meijer, Senior beleidsmedewerker, namens de instelling van deze gelegenheid gebruik gemaakt. Dit heeft geleid tot enkele tekstuele aanpassingen.

De NVAO besluit de aanvraag Toets nieuwe opleiding joint degree wo-master North Sea Energy Law Programme (postinitieel) (90 ECTS; variant: deeltijd; locaties: Groningen, Aberdeen, Oslo, Kopenhagen) van de Rijksuniversiteit Groningen, de University of Aberdeen, de University of Oslo en de University of Copenhagen positief te beoordelen.

Graad: Master of laws

Advies Croho-onderdeel: recht

Van kracht tot en met 28 augustus 2020

Den Haag, 29 augustus 2014

De NVAO
Voor deze:



R.P. Zevenbergen
(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.

Onderwerp	Standaarden	Oordeel
1 Beoogde eindkwalificaties	De beoogde eindkwalificaties van de opleiding zijn wat betreft inhoud, niveau en oriëntatie geconcretiseerd en voldoen aan internationale eisen	V
2 Onderwijsleeromgeving	Het programma, het personeel en de opleidingsspecifieke voorzieningen maken het voor de instromende studenten mogelijk de beoogde eindkwalificaties te realiseren	V
3 Toetsing	De opleiding beschikt over een adequaat systeem van toetsing	V
4 Afstudeergarantie en financiële voorzieningen	De instelling geeft aan studenten de garantie dat het programma volledig kan worden doorlopen en stelt toereikende financiële voorzieningen beschikbaar	V
Algemene conclusie		V

V = voldoende O = onvoldoende

Pagina 6 van 6 **Bijlage 2: Samenstelling panel**

- Prof. Willem J.M. Van Genugten (chair), professor of International Law at Tilburg University (the Netherlands);
- Prof. Terence Daintith, founder of the Centre for Energy, Petroleum and Mineral Law and Policy at the University of Dundee (Australia) and Professorial Fellow at the University of London (UK);
- Prof. Nigel Bankes, holder of the chair in Natural Resources Law at the University of Calgary (Canada) and adjunct professor, University of Tromsø (Norway);
- Joren Selleslaghs, student European Studies at the Europa College, Bruges (Belgium).

Tove Blytt Holmen was an observer on behalf of the Norwegian Quality Assurance Agency, Nokut. On behalf of the NVAO, drs. Jetse Siebenga was responsible for the process-coordination. The external, certified secretary, dr. Jetje De Groof, drafted the experts' report.