

Besluit

Besluit strekkende tot een positieve beoordeling van een aanvraag toets nieuwe opleiding van de opleiding wo-bachelor International Studies van de Universiteit Leiden

	Gegevens	
datum	Instelling	: Universiteit Leiden
30 september 2014	Opleiding	: wo-bachelor International Studies
onderwerp	Variant	: voltijd
Definitief besluit	Locatie	: Den Haag
Toets nieuwe opleiding	Studieomvang (ECTS)	: 180
wo-bachelor	Datum macrodoelmatigheidsbesluit	: 13 december 2013
International Studies	Datum aanvraag	: 5 maart 2014
Universiteit Leiden	Datum locatiebezoek	: 11 en 12 juni 2014
(002819)	Datum paneladvies	: 30 juli 2014
uw kenmerk	Instellingstoets kwaliteitszorg	: ja, positief besluit van 2 juli 2013
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ons kenmerk		
NVAO/20142989/ND		
bijlage	Beoordelingskader	
2	2 Beoordelingskader voor de beperkte toets nieuwe opleiding van de NVAO (Stcr. 2010, nr 21523).	

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.

Advies panel

Samenvatting bevindingen en overwegingen van het panel.

The bachelor's programme International Studies is offered by the Faculty of Humanities of Leiden University on the premises of Campus The Hague. The programme has started in 2012 as a specialisation within the bachelor's programme Liberal Arts and Sciences: Global Challenges, of which the other specialisations are offered by the Leiden University College (Faculty Campus The Hague). Leiden University intends to offer International Studies as a separate bachelor's programme.

Standard 1. Intended learning outcomes

International Studies is a multi- and interdisciplinary programme which builds on four pillars: culture, history, politics and economics. Students choose one region in which they specialise and learn a language which is widely used in that area.

Pagina 2 van 7 The combination of multidisciplinary knowledge, geographic specialisation and a comparative approach distinguishes the programme from other Area Studies programmes and from programmes in International Relations. The panel assesses the programme as ambitious and noted during the discussions with students and potential employers that they find the programme's approach very attractive. Because the title International Studies is also used by programmes with a different perspective, it is important that students and potential employers know what to expect. The panel, therefore, advises to be absolutely clear about the programme's mission, its contents and objectives to avoid misunderstandings.

The aim of the programme is to promote the student's academic development in terms of knowledge, understanding and skills in the field of International Studies to such an extent that graduates are able to work in positions in an international environment at a graduate level and that they meet the entry requirements for admission to related master's programmes. The panel concludes that the intended learning outcomes of the programme meet the international requirements of similar programmes. They are clearly described, linked to the Dublin descriptors and appropriate for an academic bachelor's programme.

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

Standard 2. Teaching-learning environment

The panel has studied the curriculum and course materials and concludes that the structure of the curriculum is well thought out and has a feasible study load. The contents of the courses and the literature enable the students to achieve the intended learning outcomes. The curriculum progresses from general introductory courses in Area Studies and the four core disciplines to the specialised courses 'by area' and, finally, to the comparative courses with a global perspective. The contents of the four core disciplines are selected to enhance the students' understanding of regions in a comparative global and international context instead of, more traditionally, the knowledge base of the disciplines in themselves. The panel finds this an interesting and legitimate choice, which explains the rather idiosyncratic contents of e.g. the Economics courses. Both the international mix of staff members and the international student body and their input in the tutorial groups contribute to the global flavour of the programme.

The panel is impressed by the degree of choice that students have within the structure of the programme. Study coordinators can advise the students to select the best options. After the first semester they choose a region and language in which they specialise. They have a choice of two electives in the second and third year. In the first semester of the third year students can choose for a minor, a study abroad or an internship. In this discretionary space students can either broaden or deepen their knowledge and prepare themselves for a specific master's programme or employment. In the final semester they write a thesis in the context of a research seminar. Thesis seminars will be offered on the eight regions of specialisation, on the four pillars (core disciplines) and on the comparative approach.

Courses are mostly taught in a combination of (sometimes large-scale) lectures and tutorials. The programme aims at small-scale teaching and close contacts between staff and students as characteristic features of the curriculum. In addition, students are expected to make many written assignments and prepare oral presentations. The tutorial groups are therefore essential. The rapid growth of the programme (over 350 students in 2012-2013 and more than 500 in 2013-2014) did not always allow for a perfect match between a tutor's expertise and the course(s) in which he or she was teaching. With new appointments in 2014-2015, better matches should be possible.

Pagina 3 van 7 Also, consistency problems between different lecturers in the 'by area' courses and between lecturers and tutors were mentioned in the information dossier as points to be improved. Coordination has already been strengthened to remedy this. To maintain balance between quality and scale, the panel recommends that the management investigate how the distinctive features of the teaching-learning environment can be maintained during such a rapid growth and if there is a maximum number of students that can be accommodated.

The programme is taught by a substantial group of experienced and well-qualified lecturers. They all have a PhD degree and combine research and teaching. Together, they cover the range of disciplines and regions of the International Studies programme. The tutors are mostly young members of staff. They are guided by a senior tutor and guidelines are available for each course. These guidelines and the other coordination efforts contribute to the consistency between the tutors and to the quality of their teaching. The Educational Committee monitors the quality of the programme and advises the Programme Board on the basis of student evaluations.

In addition to the general programme management and administration, the programme has a number of support staff for specific components of the programme (coordinator internships and study abroad) and to advise the students (study coordinators and advisers). For the large and international group of students of the programme, this is an asset. The programme is taught at the Campus The Hague, where sufficient facilities and services, such as a library, are available.

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

Standard 3. Assessment

The panel has checked the Course and Examination Regulations 2014-2015, and found these to be in order. The Board of Examiners has drawn up adequate rules and procedures to check the quality of examinations, deal with requests for exemptions and individual study packages, cases of plagiarism etc. On the basis of the discussions during the site visit, the panel concludes that the Board of Examiners is accessible and ambitious, is aware of its responsibilities, has developed good procedures and is in control of the quality of assessment of the International Studies programme.

Each course is assessed by multiple assessments to reflect the different learning objectives (knowledge, skills). The assignments and exams reflect the learning objectives of the courses. Their validity, reliability and transparency to the students and assessors are checked by the Board of Examiners. Since the programme has been organised since 2012, as a specialisation within the bachelor's programme Liberal Arts and Sciences: Global Challenges, the panel was able to take the achieved learning outcomes of BA1 and BA2 into account. The panel has checked a number of assignments and exams made by the students. These show that the students achieve in general sufficient depth of knowledge and skills in the course of the programme.

The panel assesses standard 3 'Assessment' as satisfactory.

Standard 4. Graduation guarantee and financial provisions

Leiden University guarantees that students who have been admitted to the programme, can complete the entire curriculum. The university makes sufficient financial provisions available for the period in which the programme does not yet yield sufficient revenues to cover the costs of the

Pagina 4 van 7 programme. Based on the large number of students who are interested in the programme, the panel concludes that International Studies is a viable programme. The panel assesses standard 4 'Graduation guarantee and financial provisions' as satisfactory.

The panel confirms that the International Studies programme is multi- and interdisciplinary, as can be seen from both its objectives and its curriculum. The panel, therefore, confirms the allocation of sector(s) as suggested by the applicant: cross-sectoral.

Given these considerations, the panel advises NVAO to take a positive decision regarding the quality of the new bachelor's programme in International Studies offered by Leiden University at its Campus in The Hague.

Aanbevelingen

De NVAO onderschrijft de aanbevelingen van het panel en brengt twee aanbevelingen expliciet onder de aandacht van de opleiding:

1. het bewaken van de balans tussen kwaliteit en kwantiteit gezien de snelle toename van het aantal studenten;
2. het in de externe communicatie duidelijk maken wat het specifieke profiel van de opleiding inhoudt, ook en vooral ten behoeve van potentiële studenten, gezien de eigen invulling van 'international studies'.

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 Universiteit Leiden te Leiden in de gelegenheid gesteld zijn zienswijze op het voornemen tot besluit d.d. 11 augustus 2014 naar voren te brengen. De instelling heeft geen opmerkingen en/of bezwaren geformuleerd op het voornemen tot besluit.

De NVAO besluit de aanvraag Toets nieuwe opleiding wo-bachelor International Studies (180 EC; variant: voltijd; locatie: Den Haag) van de Universiteit Leiden positief te beoordelen.

Graad: Bachelor

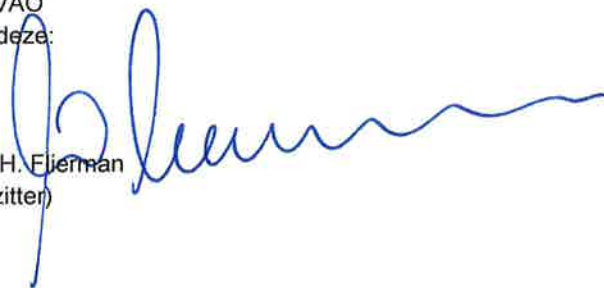
Advies Croho-onderdeel: sectoroverstijgend.

Van kracht tot en met 29 september 2020

Den Haag, 30 september 2014

De NVAO
Voor deze:

Dr. A.H. Fijerman
(voorzitter)



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	voldoende
2 Onderwijsleeromgeving	Het programma, het personeel en de opleidingsspecifieke voorzieningen maken het voor de instromende studenten mogelijk de beoogde eindkwalificaties te realiseren	voldoende
3 Toetsing	De opleiding beschikt over een adequaat systeem van toetsing	voldoende
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	voldoende
Algemeen oordeel		voldoende

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- Prof. dr. ir. Kees Mouwen, former Board Member of Tilburg University, and Emeritus Professor in Strategy and Governance in the Non-profit Sector (*chair*);
- Prof. dr. Laurent Boetsch, Professor of Romance Languages and Director of International Education Office of International Education, Washington and Lee University, Lexington, Virginia;
- Dr. John Meadowcroft, Head of the Department of Political Economy, School of Social Science & Public Policy, King's College London;
- Florine Boeding, MA Student Communication and Organisation, Utrecht University (*student member*).

Assisting staff:

- Dr. Marianne van der Weiden, secretary to the panel;
- Michèle Wera, MA, policy advisor NVAO and process coordinator.