

Besluit

Besluit strekkende tot een oordeel positief onder voorwaarden van een aanvraag toets nieuwe opleiding van de wo-bachelor Urban Studies van de Universiteit Leiden

	Gegevens	
datum	Instelling	: Universiteit Leiden
30 november 2017	Opleiding	: wo-bachelor Urban Studies
onderwerp		
Besluit		
Toets nieuwe opleiding	Variant	: voltijd
wo-bachelor	Afstudeerrichtingen	:
Urban Studies van de	Locatie	: Den Haag
Universiteit Leiden	Studieomvang (EC)	: 180
(005545)	Datum macrodoelmatigheidsbesluit	: 2 februari 2017
uw kenmerk	Datum aanvraag	: 11 april 2017
2017/12867		
ons kenmerk	Datum locatiebezoek(en)	: 20 september 2017
NVAO/20173043/ND	Datum adviesrapport	: 20 oktober 2017
bijlage	Instellingstoets kwaliteitszorg	: ja, positief besluit van 2 juli 2013
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Beoordelingskader(s)

- Beoordelingskader voor de beperkte toets nieuwe opleiding van de NVAO (Stcrt. 2016, nr. 69458).
- Artikel 5a.11, vierde lid, van de Wet op het hoger onderwijs en wetenschappelijk onderzoek (WHW) (Stb. 2010, 293)
- Artikel 1 van het Accreditatiebesluit WHW (Stb. 2011, 536)

Bevindingen

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

Advies panel

Samenvatting bevindingen en overwegingen van het panel.

In line with the standards and criteria described in the NVAO Assessment framework for the higher education accreditation system of the Netherlands, the panel's assessment has

Pagina 2 van 8 concentrated on (1) the intended learning outcomes, (2) the teaching-learning environment, and (3) the assessment procedures.

(1) The three-year academic bachelor programme Urban Studies of Leiden University (180 EC) addresses important themes regarding urbanisation and urban processes in a relevant manner. It meets academic as well as societal needs resulting from processes of urbanization and globalisation. The panel appreciates the international scope, the comparative and interdisciplinary ambitions, the broad approach to urban studies by including science, social science and humanities perspectives and the connection of the programme to several (inter)national strategic agendas.

The discussions during the visit were informative and mostly convincing. The panel generally approves of the vision and intended learning outcomes as described. They provide an appropriate guide and inspiration for the design of the programme. The panel is also convinced that the intended learning outcomes, organised along the lines of the Dublin descriptors, comply with the level and orientation for a bachelor programme as defined in the Dutch qualifications framework. The panel suggests to further clarify the definitions of its interdisciplinary ambition and of problem solving in the intended learning outcomes.

The fact that the city is addressed from different perspectives is not only appreciated by the panel but also by stakeholders. The design of the programme corresponds to their needs for professionals who can function in multidisciplinary contexts taking into account perspectives from the humanities, the social sciences and the sciences. Given that the labour market is geared more towards masters than bachelors, the panel appreciates that the programme already made agreements with eleven master programmes to ensure entrance into education at master level.

The programme meets standard 1 (intended learning outcomes).

(2) In line with the international ambitions the programme intends to admit 35% international students. *It provides a generous mentoring programme for all students, especially the first year.* The students will moreover encounter a very well-structured programme. The panel fully supports the idea to start with broader disciplinary oriented courses addressing themes like governance and physical aspects of cities before offering more specialised multi- and even interdisciplinary courses. The idea to specialise gradually from four via two specialisations to one specialisation in the thesis is also appreciated. The design of both the *knowledge trajectory and the methodology trajectory, starting from the general level towards the specific*, is a good intention although it remained unclear to the panel how exactly this would be realised in practice.

The content of the programme raised some questions. Neither the documentation nor the discussions during the site visit provided the panel with a clear view on (1) what exactly the programme sees as the foundations of urban studies and (2) in what sense exactly the humanities perspective has a bearing on this in a conceptual and methodological sense. As to the first point, it remained unclear, for instance, how important the urban spatial dimension would be and how that would be built into the programme. Regarding the second point, discursive and visual analytical methods did not seem to receive the intention they deserve.

Pagina 3 van 8 As a consequence, the panel experienced a lack of consistency in how the courses are embedded in the field of urban studies. Some introductory and thematic courses seem to fit better in an urban studies framework than others; for some courses, it was unclear to what extent there would be an urban dimension at all. As to the methodological courses, the panel observed that the methodologies of the social sciences receive more attention than those of the humanities, although it became clear during the visit that the humanities approach will not only be present in the four specialisations, but also in the methodological electives offered.

The interdisciplinarity of the programme was discussed on a more general level during the site visit. While the programme is presented as an interdisciplinary one, its character according to the panel is – at this moment of development – mainly multidisciplinary. Interdisciplinarity requires a clearer integrating theme or principle, or at least ideas about how to come to integration, than the panel came across. During the visit, it became clear to the panel that the long-term ambitions remain to become an interdisciplinary programme nevertheless.

During the visit, the panel met a very enthusiastic team with substantial teaching experience. It noticed however limited experience regarding urban questions. The programme management and faculty board affirmed that in the case of lacking expertise this will be complemented. In the longer term the introduction of Urban Studies will lead to reorientation of the institutes contributing to the programme and the ensuing adjustments in focus and research of lecturers. Furthermore, when henceforth attracting junior staff expertise in urban studies will be taken into account.

Altogether the panel came across a well-structured programme with potentially good courses and very committed staff who enjoy developing the programme cooperatively. Yet, according to the panel the lack of a shared and explicit vision on urban studies from a humanities perspective makes it harder than necessary to further develop the focus and consistency of the programme. The programme therefore only partially meets standard two. The panel however is confident that this can be mended in the course of further design and implementation of the programme. As a result, the panel formulates as a condition to clarify the programme's definition of the foundations of urban studies (including the spatial dimension) as well as the value-added and specificity of the humanities perspective more explicit in a memorandum. As a condition to fully meet the standard the panel requires the proof of alignment of the courses on these aims.

The panel concludes that standard 2 (teaching-learning environment) is partially met.

(3) According to the panel, the assessment-plan is well designed with respect to: appropriate form of assessments, the variety in form and its contribution to continuous studying and spread of study load. The panel is confident that closed question exams will be well constructed. In addition, sufficient assessment of writing and research skills are available in the programme.

The panel has confidence in the way the Board of Examiners will be composed, positioned and supported. The Exam Board fulfils its legal responsibilities in a professional and authoritative manner.

Pagina 4 van 8 The concern regarding the feasibility of having two assessors for each paper and thesis is counterbalanced. In practice, papers will not always be assessed by two assessors, but the assessors will use rubrics or answer models and are also expected to calibrate their grading. In case of doubt and for the purpose of calibration peer-to-peer consultation will be used.

The panel supported the initiative to adjust the generic Thesis assessment form of the Faculty of Humanities to the needs of assessing theses of Urban Studies. The multi- or interdisciplinary character of the thesis and the question how to integrate and assess different perspectives require more attention.

The programme meets standard 3 (assessment).

Overall, the panel comes to the conclusion that the programme meets standards 1 and 3 and partially meets standard 2. Given these evaluations, the panel advises NVAO to take a conditionally positive decision regarding the quality of the proposed programme wo-bachelor Urban Studies at Leiden University.

The panel formulates as a condition to clarify programme's definition of the foundations of urban studies and the humanities perspective in a memorandum and alignment of the courses of the programme and the curriculum as a whole with these definitions.

Advies van het panel

Het panel adviseert de NVAO om positief onder voorwaarden te besluiten ten aanzien van de kwaliteit van de nieuwe opleiding wo bachelor Urban Studies van de Universiteit Leiden.

Ingevolge het bepaalde in artikel 5a.10, derde lid, in verbinding met artikel 5a.11, achtste 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. 13 november 2017 naar voren te brengen. Bij e-mail van 16 november 2017 heeft het bestuur ingestemd met het voornemen tot besluit.

De NVAO besluit de aanvraag beperkte Toets nieuwe opleiding van de opleiding wo-bachelor Urban Studies (180 EC; variant: voltijd; locatie: Leiden) van de Universiteit Leiden te Leiden als positief onder voorwaarden(n) te beoordelen. De voorwaarden zijn:

- make the programme's definition about the foundations of urban studies and the humanities perspective more explicit in a memorandum;
- build on these definitions in the design of the courses of the programme and the curriculum as a whole;
- spell out more clearly and specifically what the value added of the Humanities perspective is and integrate this better in the programme, especially in the methodological trajectory;
- bring to the fore the urban dimension in introductory courses better, especially, but not exclusively, in the course 'Individuals, groups and urban institutions';
- integrate the spatial dimension more in the program, in the introductory as well as the methodological and thematic courses.

De beoordeling of de opleiding aan deze voorwaarden heeft voldaan vindt plaats door hetzelfde panel op grond van het genoemde memorandum, de nadere uitwerking van het eerste jaar en een gesprek met een delegatie van het opleidingsmanagement en de docenten.

De termijn waarbinnen aan deze voorwaarden moet zijn voldaan bepaalt de NVAO op 18 maanden.

Uiterlijk zes maanden voor afloop van de termijn van de voorwaarden, levert de instelling documentatie aan de NVAO waarin zij aangeeft hoe aan de voorwaarden is voldaan.

Visitatiegroep : nader te bepalen¹.

Van kracht tot en met 30 mei 2019

Den Haag, 30 november 2017

De NVAO
Voor deze:



Dr. A.H. Flierman
(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.

¹ De opleiding dient ten minste twee jaar voor de vervaldatum gebruik te maken van de zogenoemde aprilronde om zelf zorg te dragen voor een indeling in een visitatiegroep. Daarna neemt de NVAO het besluit over de indeling in een visitatiegroep.

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	Voldoet
2 Onderwijsleeromgeving	Het programma, het personeel en de opleidingsspecifieke voorzieningen maken het voor de instromende studenten mogelijk de beoogde eindkwalificaties te realiseren	Voldoet ten dele
3 Toetsing	De opleiding beschikt over een adequaat systeem van toetsing	Voldoet
Algemene conclusie		Positief onder voorwaarde

The panel consisted of:

- Prof. dr. Bert De Munck (chair), Professor at the History Department of the University of Antwerp;
- Dr. Petra Brouwer, assistant Professor of Architectural History at the Department of Art History at the University of Amsterdam and coordinator of the Master's Programme Art History;
- Prof. dr. Jan Hein Furnée, Professor of European Cultural History at the History Department of Radboud University;
- Student member: drs. Patrick Pilipiec, Master Health Education and Promotion and Master Healthcare Policy, Innovation and Management at Maastricht University.

On behalf of the NVAO, drs. Frank Wamelink and drs. Johanneke Braaksma were responsible for the process-coordination and the drafting of the experts' report.