

Besluit

Besluit strekkende tot het verlenen van accreditatie aan de opleiding wo-onderzoeksmaster Afrika Studies (research) van de Universiteit Leiden

Gegevens

datum	Naam instelling	: Universiteit Leiden
28 februari 2017	Naam opleiding	: wo-onderzoeksmaster Afrika Studies (research) (120 EC)
onderwerp		
Besluit	Datum aanvraag	: 18 juli 2016
Accreditatie	Variant opleiding	: voltijd
wo-onderzoeksmaster	Locatie opleiding	: Leiden
Afrika Studies (research) van de	Datum goedkeuren	
Universiteit Leiden	panel	: 9 mei 2016
(005031)	Datum locatiebezoek	: 23 mei 2016
uw kenmerk	Datum visitatierapport	: 11 juli 2016
2016/29659		
ons kenmerk	Instellingstoets kwaliteitszorg	: ja, positief besluit van 2 juli 2013
NVAO/20170312/AH		
bijlagen		

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Aanvullende informatie

De NVAO heeft bij brief van 23 november 2016 de instelling aanvullende informatie gevraagd over de overwegingen die het panel voor standaard 1 en standaard 2 tot het oordeel goed hebben gebracht. Ook heeft de NVAO aanvullende informatie gevraagd over de mate waarin kalibratie en consistentie met de beoordeling van de vorige commissie onderdeel is geweest van het beoordelingsproces. Bij brief van 19 december 2016 heeft de NVAO de aanvullende informatie ontvangen. De NVAO heeft de aanvullende informatie in haar oordeelsvorming betrokken.

Beoordelingskader

Beoordelingskader voor de beperkte opleidingsbeoordeling van de NVAO (Stcrt. 2014, nr 36791)

Bevindingen

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

De aanvullende informatie geeft expliciet weer welke aspecten volgens het panel maken dat zowel de eindkwalificaties als de onderwijsleeromgeving boven de basiskwaliteit uitsteken

Pagina 2 van 6 en legt helder uit welke aspecten de afgelopen jaren verder zijn ontwikkeld en daarmee de opleiding van hogere kwaliteit maken dan ten tijde van de vorige visitatie.

Advies van het visitatiepanel

Samenvatting bevindingen en overwegingen van het panel.

In this executive summary, the panel presents the main considerations which have led to the assessment of the quality of the master's programme Research Master African Studies of Leiden University, which has been assessed according to the NVAO Assessment Framework.

As the panel observed, programme management has taken up the recommendations made in the previous assessment in 2010. In particular, the coherence of the curriculum has been strengthened by linking topics and themes more systematically, professional skills trainings have been designed to prepare students for positions outside of academia, theory and methodology in the theses have been fostered and students have been encouraged to participate in on-going research programmes.

In the panel's opinion, the programme's name matches its contents and corresponds to the names of similar programmes. The panel feels the changing organizational set-up of the programme may be beneficial, because of the intensified focus within Leiden University on research and teaching on Africa.

The panel considers the objectives of the programme to meet the requirements for the scientific practice and the international scientific requirements for this domain and, in fact, to surpass in this respect similar programmes in the Netherlands and abroad. The emphasis on the interdisciplinary study of this field and the extensive requirements with regard to academic and research skills add to the value and strength of these objectives. The programme's objectives allow graduates to adequately prepare for PhD-trajectories, much more than graduates of non-research master programmes. The panel welcomes the programme's intention not only to train students for academic careers but also for professional careers, as this broadens the students' chances on the labour market. The programme has been compared to other programmes in the Netherlands and abroad, adding to the clarification of the programme's profile. The intended learning outcomes of the programme meet the objectives and correspond to the master's requirements. In the update of the intended learning outcomes for 2016/2017 and onwards, aspects like ethical considerations and communication to non-specialist audiences have, quite rightly, been more explicitly stated.

The entry requirements and the intake procedure of the programme are adequate. A strict selection procedure has been put in place and is well enforced by the selection committee. As the number of rejections in the first phase of the selection process is not known, the panel suggests to monitor these figures more closely.

From a table drafted by programme management, it is evident that all of the intended learning outcomes are covered in the curriculum. The panel feels the curriculum has been adequately designed, giving the students ample opportunities to achieve the learning outcomes.

The panel is of the opinion the interdisciplinary nature of the programme has been well represented in the curriculum.

Pagina 3 van 6 As the interdisciplinary character of the programme is quite important and will probably gain even more weight in future, the panel suggests to think this interdisciplinarity through up to the level of students' own research and encourages programme management to clarify the value added of interdisciplinarity for follow-up PhD-level research, as compared to disciplinary research programmes.

Students are acquainted with a wide variety of methods and reflect on methodological issues in case studies, while studying literature and when doing research. The panel suggests stimulating students to formulate sharper research questions and to determine more appropriate methods to answer these research questions. The research component is strongly represented in the curriculum, as the entire second year is spent on research. The fieldwork the students perform in preparation of the thesis, is regarded by the panel to constitute an asset. The panel recommends programme management to encourage students to choose thesis projects more in line with on-going research programmes at African Studies Centre Leiden.

Lecturers in the programme are definitely renowned researchers with strong international reputations as scholars in their fields. The research institutes, most of the lecturers belong to, have received scores of very good to excellent in recent research evaluations. Although the educational expertise of the lecturers is not in doubt, the panel advises programme management to increase the number of lecturers with BKO-certificates in the coming years.

In the panel's view, the educational policy and the teaching methods adopted in the programme foster the learning processes of students, especially their becoming critically thinking academics. The information provided, the study guidance and the facilities for the students are adequate. Students with whom the panel met, confirmed this. The students informed the panel the second semester of the first year to be more demanding than the first semester. Therefore, the panel suggests to scrutinize the relation between the course contents, the work load and the credits in terms of EC.

The assessment policy, including testing, as formulated for and implemented in this programme is appropriate. The panel approves of the choice by programme management to use assignments and presentations as test methods instead of written examinations, meant to test the students' abilities not to reproduce but to apply knowledge and understanding and meant to test their academic skills. This conforms to the level of ambition of this research master's programme. Processes to arrive at valid examinations and reliable assessments have been put in place. In most of the courses, students have to do more than one examination, which ensures the validity of the testing and almost all of the examinations are assessed by two examiners, which contributes to the reliability of the assessments. The thesis examination and assessment process has been well-designed, having a number of milestones to assess the progress and the results of the students. The Board of Examiners has a solid and independent position and appropriately monitors the examinations and the theses. In addition, this Board is involved in a number of regulations with regard to examinations and assessments.

Pagina 4 van 6 Most of the courses in the curriculum being at the level 600 in Leiden University terms, the courses are of an above master's level, allowing the students to achieve a high level. None of the theses the panel studied, were considered to be unsatisfactory. Some of these proved to be very rich, being based on extensive and well-executed field work. On the other hand, the panel found the research questions to be sometimes ambiguous or vague and the choice of research method debatable, which results sometimes in purely descriptive work or circular reasoning. The percentage of students having been able to acquire a PhD position, between 40 % and 50 %, is quite substantial, definitely testifying to the high level students at completion of the programme have achieved.

The panel assesses the programme Research Master African Studies of Leiden University to be satisfactory and recommends NVAO to grant re-accreditation to this programme.

Besluit

Ingevolge het bepaalde in artikel 5a.10, derde lid, van de WHW heeft de NVAO het college van bestuur van de Universiteit Leiden in de gelegenheid gesteld zijn zienswijze op het voornemen tot besluit van 16 januari 2017 naar voren te brengen.

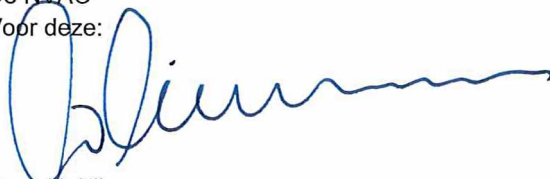
Bij e-mail van 24 januari 2017 heeft de instelling laten weten geen opmerkingen te hebben.

De NVAO besluit accreditatie te verlenen aan de wo-onderzoeksmaster Afrika Studies (research) (120 EC; variant: voltijd; locatie: Leiden) van de Universiteit Leiden te Leiden. De NVAO beoordeelt de kwaliteit van de opleiding als voldoende.

Dit besluit treedt in werking op 28 februari 2017 en is van kracht tot en met 27 februari 2023.

Den Haag, 28 februari 2017

De NVAO
Voor deze:



Dr. A.H. Flierman
(voorzitter)

Onderwerp	Standaard	Beoordeling door het panel
1. Beoogde eindkwalificaties	De beoogde eindkwalificaties van de opleiding zijn wat betreft inhoud, niveau en oriëntatie geconcretiseerd en voldoen aan internationale eisen.	Goed
2. Onderwijsleeromgeving	Het programma, het personeel en de opleidingsspecifieke voorzieningen maken het voor de instromende studenten mogelijk de beoogde eindkwalificaties te realiseren.	Goed
3. Toetsing	De opleiding beschikt over een adequaat systeem van toetsing.	Voldoende
4. Gerealiseerde eindkwalificaties	De opleiding toont aan dat de beoogde eindkwalificaties worden gerealiseerd.	Voldoende
Eindoordeel		Voldoende

De standaarden krijgen het oordeel onvoldoende, voldoende, goed of excellent.

Het eindoordeel over de opleiding als geheel wordt op dezelfde schaal gegeven.

Pagina 6 van 6 **Bijlage 2: panelsamenstelling**

- Prof. T. De Herdt PhD, (voorzitter) professor in Development Studies, University of Antwerp and chair of Institute of Development Policy and Management;
- Prof. C. Carvalho PhD, (lid) associate professor of Anthropology and Development Studies, and director of International Studies Centre of Lisbon University Institute (2007-2016), Lisbon, Portugal;
- E. Macamo PhD, (lid) associate professor of African Studies at University of Basel. Switzerland;
- D. van Wanrooij LLB, (student-lid) student in the master's programme in International Law and European Law and in the master's programme in Law and Technology, Tilburg University.

Het panel werd ondersteund door W. Vercouteren MSc, secretaris (gecertificeerd).