

Erasmus Universiteit Rotterdam
College van bestuur
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Besluit

Besluit strekkende tot een positieve beoordeling van een aanvraag om accreditatie van de opleiding wo-master Health Economics, Policy and Law van de Erasmus Universiteit Rotterdam

datum	Algemene gegevens:	
20 december 2010	Naam instelling	: Erasmus Universiteit Rotterdam
onderwerp	Naam opleiding	: wo-master Health Economics, Policy and Law (60 ECTS)
Definitief besluit accreditatie	Datum aanvraag	: 18 augustus 2010
wo-master	Varianten opleiding	: voltijd, deeltijd
Health Economics, Policy and	Locatie opleiding	: Rotterdam
Law van de Erasmus		
Universiteit Rotterdam	Naam VBI	: Quality Assurance Netherlands Universities (QANU)
(#4498)	Datum visitatie	: 15 en 16 april 2010
ons kenmerk	Datum VBI-rapport	: juli 2010
NVAO/20103501/ND		
bijlagen	Beoordelingskader:	
1	Accreditatiekader bestaande opleidingen hoger onderwijs [wo-master] van de NVAO (Accreditatiekader; Stcr. 2003, 120). Op grond van het toepasselijke Accreditatiekader wordt een opleiding beoordeeld aan de hand van zes onderwerpen, te weten: doelstellingen opleiding, programma, inzet van personeel, voorzieningen, interne kwaliteitszorg en resultaten.	

Samenstelling QANU -panel:

- prof. dr. P.A.H. van Lieshout, hoogleraar Theorie van de zorg, Universiteit Utrecht, lid WRR;
- prof. dr. J.J. Polder, hoogleraar Economische aspecten van gezondheid en zorg, Universiteit van Tilburg, projectleider bij het RIVM;
- prof. dr. H. Nys, gewoon hoogleraar Medisch recht, Universiteit Leuven, consulent biolaw voor de Unesco;
- drs. A.J. Lamping, directeur Zorg Zorgverzekeraars Nederland, is opgeleid als arts;
- dr. M. Verhagen, opleidingsdirecteur en docent van het departement personeels-wetenschappen, Faculteit Sociale Wetenschappen, Universiteit van Tilburg;
- H. van den Dikkenberg, BSc, student masteropleiding Public Health and Society, Universiteit Wageningen.

pagina 2 van 9 **Bevindingen:**

Doelstellingen opleiding

Het panel komt tot de volgende bevindingen en overwegingen.

“The committee studied the learning outcomes defined by the programme management and ascertained that they correspond to the requirements set by professional colleagues and by the relevant field. The committee also compared the programme with the domain-specific requirements, and found that the learning outcomes of the programme are in line with them. The programme certainly meets the criteria concerning this standard. The domain-specific requirements are set out very clearly, and provide sufficient insight into the requirements set by professional colleagues. The panel assessed that the focus of the master’s programme is quite unique and a fruitful combination of the health, economics, policy and law fields”.

All Dublin descriptors are reflected in the learning outcomes. The learning outcomes correspond with general, internationally accepted descriptions of a master’s programme, especially the learning outcomes which state that students learn to analyze policy issues and to design, carry out and report on research.

The institute of Health Policy and Management (iBMG) is continually seeking to achieve the right balance between the academic and professional focus of the programme. The programme draws attention to the international situation (macro level) and has a stronger focus on the scientific practice. The learning outcomes correspond sufficiently to the requirements of the academic discipline (and of its practitioners) and of professional communities. The learning outcomes are explicitly of an academic nature and level. There is a substantive and logical consistency on programme level. The trimesters build logically on each other, starting with compulsory courses to provide students with an advanced multidisciplinary background, followed by the possibility by means of electives to broaden or deepen this knowledge, and to focus on specific employment opportunities. Nevertheless, the panel advises iBMG to monitor the awareness of lecturers with regard to the integration of the different disciplines within the courses”.

De NVAO stelt vast dat in het VBI-rapport deugdelijk en kenbaar is gemotiveerd op welke gronden QANU dit onderwerp positief heeft bevonden.

De NVAO beoordeelt derhalve het *onderwerp* ‘doelstellingen opleiding’ als voldoende.

Programma

Het panel komt tot de volgende bevindingen en overwegingen.

“The full-time programme is organized in three trimesters and six blocks. There is also a possibility to follow the programme on a part-time basis. Part-time students attend classes for one-and-a half days per week. The complete programme will take two periods of 12 months (two years).

The panel is impressed about the way iBMG succeeded in strengthening the balance between the academic orientation and level and the linkage to the professional field. The development of scientific research skills is adequately addressed within the programme. Courses stimulate students to think academically and prepare them for writing their thesis. Academic activities relating to research, for example writing papers and conducting

pagina 3 van 9 research individually, are clearly represented in the curriculum. Many of the courses are explicitly related to academic skills, such as the inclusion of econometric methods. In addition, a lot of international literature, partly written by the lecturers themselves, is included in the courses.

The programme is adequately designed to ensure that the students achieve the learning outcomes. A table presented in the self-evaluation report reveals how the individual courses are systematically cross-matched with the learning outcomes.

The programme requires that students integrate their knowledge on different disciplines while solving the cases. Students are motivated and are able to do so. The panel wants to point out to iBMG that lecturers also have to be able to integrate knowledge of different disciplines. In addition, the panel wants to advise the programme management to reconsider and optimize the balance between the disciplines in the programme, especially taking into account the importance attached to the economy discipline at this moment.

The coherence of the programme is safeguarded in multiple ways, however, it could be safeguarded better. The panel advises the programme management to strengthen the coherence with regard to the elective courses, for example by decreasing the amount of choices, or setting up more specializations in which elective courses are clustered. The panel also established that the programme could provide more information to students about making coherent choices.

The programme could be studied in 40 hours a week. The load of the curriculum experienced by students partly depends on whether they also have a job. 'Full-time students', who first completed the bachelor's programme, state that the master's programme is definitely of a higher level and that they have to work hard to finish the programme within the set time, but that the programme could be studied in 40 hours a week. Students who are working as well as studying experience the workload as quite high and impinging on their social lives. Nevertheless, the panel observed that those students are highly motivated, willing to work hard and to put extra effort into it, and have quite a lot of prior knowledge, which gives them an advantage. iBMG is searching for the right balance between a challenging workload and an attractive programme for students who have a job alongside their studies. In addition, the panel observed the number of students with a job is declining. As a result, the problem concerning workload does not fully apply to this programme anymore. Nevertheless, the panel advises the programme to advise or require students that also have a job, to follow the programme part-time.

Graduates of the bachelor in Health Sciences at iBMG or the bachelor in Health Sciences at Maastricht University are admitted directly. The qualifications of the incoming students are in line with the structure and contents of the intended curriculum. The panel is pleased with the efforts of the programme to recruit national and international students and observed that the selection the programme makes, is sufficient. iBMG provides students of different backgrounds with adequate information and organizes this quite well. However, the information the programme management provides when students actually start the programme could be improved, especially regarding practical information, such as the online environment.

The differences between professionals from the pre-master and students from the bachelor's programme tend to be noticeable, especially concerning a theoretical or practical

pagina 4 van 9 mode of thought. On the one hand, the panel sees this as an opportunity, because students can learn from each other this way. On the other hand, these differences cause frictions between students, especially at the start of the programme. The panel advises iBMG to strengthen the pre-master. The number of ECTS could be increased to 60, and there could be a stronger focus on the academic approach. The pre-master focused on students with a vocational degree seems to connect well with the master's programme, according to the panel.

The concept of learning, based on cases and empirical problems and working in groups, perfectly fits the nature of the programme, aiming at the integration of multiple disciplines. Because students participate in groups and work on complex health issues from the professional field, they are stimulated to integrate the disciplines collaboratively, and meanwhile learn from each other and each other's backgrounds. This approach works quite well in practice and has a lot of advantages, especially taking into account the multidisciplinary and international nature of the programme. The panel examined the learning assessment procedure and concludes that students are assessed adequately. A reasonable mix of evaluations, tests and examinations is used. The examinations are a balanced reflection of the educational content and of the learning outcomes. During the site visit, students confirmed this statement."

De NVAO stelt vast dat in het VBI-rapport deugdelijk en kenbaar is gemotiveerd op welke gronden QANU dit onderwerp positief heeft bevonden.

De NVAO beoordeelt derhalve het onderwerp 'programma' als voldoende.

Inzet van personeel

Het panel komt tot de volgende bevindingen en overwegingen.

"The programme certainly meets the criteria expected of a scientific degree programme. A large number of the staff members holds a PhD and conducts research, which is evaluated on a regular basis by assessment committees composed of international experts. The staff as a whole has a broad scientific expertise and experience, and carries out high-quality research.

The panel is impressed by the amount of time the staff is allowed to spend on research and established that there is a favourable balance between research and education (70%- 30%). In this way the developments in the area of scientific research and the professional field are brought into the courses.

Enough staff members are present to assure the desired quality of the programme. Staff employed is adequately qualified to ensure that learning outcomes regarding content, didactical quality and the organization of the programme, are achieved. The panel verified that the didactical quality of the staff members is an important matter at the EUR and that facilities are present to foster the didactical standards of staff members. The committee also noted that students are generally positive about the quality and the educational competencies of their lecturers, as well as about the content of the courses. This was confirmed by the course evaluations."

pagina 5 van 9 De NVAO stelt vast dat in het VBI-rapport deugdelijk en kenbaar is gemotiveerd op welke gronden QANU dit onderwerp positief heeft bevonden.

De NVAO beoordeelt derhalve het onderwerp 'inzet van personeel' als voldoende.

Voorzieningen

Het panel komt tot de volgende bevindingen en overwegingen.

"The material facilities are adequate and sufficient from the perspective of the programme's learning outcomes. There are currently enough classrooms, computer rooms and study places available of sufficient quality. iBMG has realized a variety of smaller rooms, suitable for problem-oriented and group-based learning, and larger rooms for classical-style education. There are adequate ICT facilities, including an electronic work environment. During the site visit, it became clear that the students are satisfied with the facilities and the number of computers.

The tutoring and information provision for students are adequate in view of study progress, and correspond with the students' needs. In general, the panel learned that students are positive about the tutoring. The panel established that proactive tutoring of students mainly focuses on the bachelor's programme, as iBMG assumes that master students know where to turn when they have questions or experience problems. Information on what steps they should take is provided at the start of the programme. Nevertheless, the panel noted that students tend to be critical about the provision of information. The panel advises increasing the amount of information provided to students at the start of the master's programme with regard to the practical information such as the online environment and composing a coherent programme of elective courses."

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De NVAO beoordeelt derhalve het onderwerp 'voorzieningen' als voldoende.

Interne kwaliteitszorg

Het panel komt tot de volgende bevindingen en overwegingen.

"The system of internal quality assurance system is set up quite well, and makes a very solid impression. Evaluations take place regularly, and cover different perspectives and levels. iBMG makes sure that both courses and the curriculum are evaluated on a regular basis according to set guidelines and through different channels. The panel observed that the organization of quality control has been improved, which leads to this adequate system of feedback as a result of evaluations, and values this.

Students give the panel the impression of being quite actively involved with the quality of the programmes. The Programme Committees' recommendations are taken seriously and enjoy sufficient support with the Programme Directors and students.

iBMG evaluation procedures are the basis for verifiable measures for improvement, contributing to the achievement of the learning outcomes. The panel appreciates the way iBMG works towards the improvement of the quality of the programme it offers.

pagina 6 van 9 iBMG reacts quickly to signals indicating that measures are necessary, adopts a responsive and constructive attitude and is able to take effective measures which actually realize the improvements deemed necessary. Nevertheless, the panel stated that some of the results of evaluations are not evident in the long term. The output of the first year of the programme, for example, has been below target for several years. In addition, the panel observed that there is no visible improvement concerning the writing skills of the students despite the fact that iBMG implemented some improvements.

The panel studied how staff, students, alumni and the professional field are involved within iBMG and its quality assurance system, and concludes that iBMG fulfils the requirements concerning this standard. The staff members and the students contribute to the internal quality assurance in the usual way, for example via the Programme Committee, the student panels, and the Education Council. Lecturers are easily approached by the students, and contact between students and lecturers occurs regularly. The panel values this, and mentions that these informal contacts contribute to the quality of the programmes.”

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De NVAO beoordeelt derhalve het onderwerp ‘interne kwaliteitszorg’ als voldoende.

Resultaten

Het panel komt tot de volgende bevindingen en overwegingen.

“The panel assessed the achieved learning outcomes by inspecting a selection of the theses. Consideration in selecting the theses was given to the grading (low, average and high grade). All theses met the aims and objectives regarding level, orientation and subject/discipline-specific requirements. In general, the panel agreed with the grades awarded by the supervisors. The grading of the theses is fair and reflects the differences in the dissertations. However, theses with low grades tended to be graded too generously. In contrast, though it was sometimes hard for the panel to distinguish the amount of help provided by the supervisors, it established that many high grades were awarded. The respective theses were also highly valued by the panel. Some highly valued theses have the quality to be published in scientific journals.

While targets have been formulated, - the historical ambition within the programme is that 70% of students should finish the programme within two years - the programme fails to achieve them, and the figures for the last two years have not improved. This delay could be caused by different factors. For example, some of the students intentionally choose to extend the time of their studies, in order to pursue other activities. The panel found that within iBMG, much of the delay is due to the fact that students in this programme are working alongside their studies. Further, ‘full-time’ students indicate that it is difficult to complete the programme within one year because of the workload at the end of the year, when they have to write their master’s thesis as well as take courses. The panel noted that iBMG has taken some measures to reduce this workload, and appreciates this. The panel advises the programme management to consider extending the amount of ECTS for writing the master’s thesis, as discussed during the site visit. In addition, the panel recommends the programme management to offer students more guidance during the writing of their thesis, and ensure that students are aware of the consequences if they postpone the writing of their master’s thesis. The standard Study progress is unsatisfactory.

pagina 7 van 9 The panel also advises iBMG to make sure that all parties involved with the programme are conscious of the formulated targets and the actual study progress. Considerable attention is being paid across the university to the improvement of targets regarding study progress, but the awareness of people closely involved in the programme could be improved. In addition, the target of 70% for finishing the master's programme within two years could be formulated more ambitiously.

Finally, the panel advises the programme management to scrutinize the figures regarding study programmes, completion and success rates, and study delays in depth.

The committee comes to an overall assessment of the theme Results on the basis of its assessments of the separate standards. The committee has assessed the standard related to the study progress, as unsatisfactory. The committee is of the opinion, however, that the results of the programme as a whole are adequate, taking into consideration the fact that the programme meets the requirements for achieved learning outcomes, and assesses this theme as satisfactory”.

De NVAO stelt vast dat in het VBI-rapport deugdelijk en kenbaar is gemotiveerd op welke gronden QANU, een en ander tegen elkaar afwegende, dit onderwerp positief heeft bevonden.

De NVAO beoordeelt derhalve het onderwerp 'resultaten' als voldoende.

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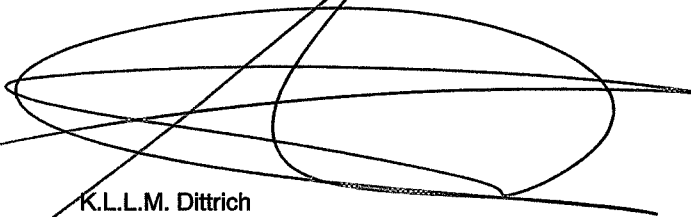
Ingevolge het bepaalde in artikel 5a.10, tweede lid, van de WHW heeft de NVAO het College van bestuur van de Erasmus Universiteit Rotterdam te Rotterdam in de gelegenheid gesteld zijn zienswijze op het voornemen tot besluit van 23 november 2010 naar voren te brengen. Bij brief van 7 december 2010 heeft het College van bestuur van deze gelegenheid gebruik gemaakt. Dit heeft geleid tot enkele tekstuele aanpassingen.

Op grond van het voorgaande besluit de NVAO dat accreditatie wordt verleend aan de wo-master Health Economics, Policy and Law (60 ECTS; varianten: voltijd, deeltijd; locatie: Rotterdam) van de Erasmus Universiteit Rotterdam te Rotterdam.

Dit besluit treedt in werking op 7 september 2011 en is van kracht tot en met 6 september 2017.

Den Haag, 20 december 2010

Nederlands-Vlaamse Accreditatieorganisatie

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and lines, positioned over the text of the signature.

K.L.L.M. Dittrich
(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.

pagina 9 van 9 **Bijlage: Overzicht van beoordelingen door het panel**

Onderwerp	Facet	Beoordeling door VBI	Beoordeling door VBI
		<i>voltijd</i>	<i>deeltijd</i>
1. Doelstellingen	1.1 domeinspecifieke eisen	G	G
	1.2 niveau master	V	V
	1.3 oriëntatie wo	V	V
	Beoordeling onderwerp	V	V
2. Programma	2.1 eisen wo	V	V
	2.2 relatie doelstellingen – programma	V	V
	2.3 samenhang programma	V	V
	2.4 studielast	V	V
	2.5 instroom	V	V
	2.6 duur	V	V
	2.7 afstemming vormgeving en inhoud	G	G
	2.8 beoordeling en toetsing	V	V
	Beoordeling onderwerp	V	V
3. Inzet personeel	3.1 eisen wo	G	G
	3.2 kwantiteit personeel	G	G
	3.3 kwaliteit personeel	V	V
	Beoordeling onderwerp	V	V
4. Voorzieningen	4.1 materiële voorzieningen	V	V
	4.2 studiebegeleiding	V	V
	Beoordeling onderwerp	V	V
5. Interne kwaliteitszorg	5.1 evaluatie resultaten	G	G
	5.2 maatregelen tot verbetering	V	V
	5.3 betrokkenheid medewerkers, studenten, alumni en beroepenveld	V	V
	Beoordeling onderwerp	V	V
6. Resultaten	6.1 gerealiseerd niveau	V	V
	6.2 onderwijsrendement	O	O
	Beoordeling onderwerp	V	V
Eindoordeel		Positief	Positief

E=excellent; G=goed; V=voldoende; O=onvoldoende.