

Besluit **Besluit strekkende tot het verlenen van accreditatie aan de opleiding wo-master Environment and Resource Management van de Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam**

	Gegevens	
datum	Naam instelling	: Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam
31 juli 2014	Naam opleiding	: wo-master Environment and Resource Management (60 ECTS)
onderwerp	Datum aanvraag	: 2 december 2013
Besluit accreditatie wo-master	Variant opleiding	: voltijd
Environment and Resource	Afstudeerrichtingen	: Energy Studies, Ecosystem Services and Biodiversity, Climate and Water Policy en Environmental Studies
Management van de Vrije	Locatie opleiding	: Amsterdam
Universiteit Amsterdam	Datum goedkeuren	
(002211)	panel	: 3 juni 2013
uw kenmerk	Datum locatiebezoek	: 10 september 2013
--	Datum visitatierapport	: 19 november 2013
ons kenmerk		
NVAO/20142671/SL		
bijlagen		
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Instellingstoets kwaliteitszorg : aangemeld en geaccepteerd voor het invoeringsregime van de instellingstoets kwaliteitszorg als bedoeld in artikel 18.32 b en c van de WHW

Beoordelingskader

Beoordelingskader voor de beperkte opleidingsbeoordeling van de NVAO (Stcrt. 2010, nr 21523).

Bevindingen

De NVAO stelt vast dat in het visitatierapport 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 (hierna ook: the committee).

Standard 1: Intended learning outcomes

The ERM master's programme is oriented to the social aspects of environmental issues. It includes insights from public administration, political science, economics, geography and spatial planning, making it interdisciplinary. The programme is also very internationally oriented. The committee believes that ERM fits well in the domain of Environmental Sciences.

The committee verified the aim and intended learning outcomes of the programme. The learning outcomes are multidisciplinary and offer a broad perspective. They are in line with the Dublin descriptors, but are too generically formulated in the committee's view. A feature of ERM is the problem-driven and solution-oriented approach. The committee appreciates this approach, but suggests a better and more precise articulation of it.

The committee concludes that graduates of the ERM programme will have acquired the knowledge and academic skills to become successful professionals in the field of environmental sciences, especially in consultancy.

Standard 2: Teaching-learning environment

The programme has a study load of 60 EC and takes one year. It consists of three compulsory courses and four specialization tracks ('Energy Studies', 'Climate and Water Policy', 'Ecosystem Services and Biodiversity' or 'Environmental Studies'). Students also learn some of the fundamental methods in environmental research in the 'Environmental and Energy Policy Tools' course. The programme concludes with the Research Project.

The committee concludes that the curriculum is well structured and well balanced. It reflects the broad, interdisciplinary field of Environmental Sciences. The curriculum also has an applied perspective as a result of its focus on concrete problems. The main criticism of the committee is the lack of a course in 'methodological thinking'. The committee also suggests paying attention to the structure and timing of the 'Environmental and Energy Policy Tools' course.

The programme has several educational features. First, it has a problem-driven, solution oriented approach. Second, attention is paid to the ambitions and talents of individual students. Third, it has an interdisciplinary approach. The committee agreed with these aspects, but had difficulty identifying them as a specific didactic concept. It advises formulating an overarching didactic concept on the programme level.

The committee was impressed by the involvement and quality of the teaching staff. Some 84% of all teachers have completed or will soon have completed the obligatory 'Basic Teaching Qualification' of VU Amsterdam (BKO). The committee appreciates that the staff is part of a research culture while they are simultaneously highly committed to teaching.

Student intake varies between 51 in 2006 and 118 in 2010, with an intake of approximately 100 students in the last two years. The committee considers the level of student intake as healthy. It applauds the broad range of nationalities and backgrounds. According to the committee, the study load is high, but acceptable.

Pagina 3 van 7 **Standard 3: Assessment and achieved learning outcomes**

According to the committee, the programme provides a balanced set of assessments. The quality of the examinations the committee inspected was good. For each course, the tests and assignments are described in detail in a study manual.

The ERM programme concludes with a Research Project. The ERM Examination Board has recently implemented the independent assessment of each thesis by two lecturers (supervisor and second, independent assessor), and strongly limited the pool of second assessors to a group of eight staff members. The committee applauds the assessment procedure with two independent assessors and a small pool of second assessors. It agrees with the programme that this procedure ensures standardization. The programme uses a rubric for thesis assessment. The committee concludes that this assessment form might be a very useful document but needs to be updated and kept alive.

All theses selected by the committee were of sufficient quality to pass, some were even of high quality, especially for the number of credits given to the Research Project (18 EC). It noted that the methodology and research design of some theses it studied could be improved. This supports the idea of introducing a course in methodology as described under standard 2. The committee is positive with regard to the quality assurance offered by the Examination Board. It is convinced that the programme has a good testing system in place. However, it does not support the plan to have all exams approved by a test committee before the start of the courses. In its opinion, this would restrict the teachers' flexibility.

The committee concludes that the master theses and the performance of graduates in the labour market demonstrate the achieved level of the ERM master programme.

De NVAO onderschrijft de aanbevelingen van het panel.

Besluit

Ingevolge het bepaalde in artikel 5a.10, derde lid, van de WHW heeft de NVAO het college van bestuur van de Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam te Amsterdam in de gelegenheid gesteld zijn zienswijze op het voornemen tot besluit van 10 juni 2014 naar voren te brengen.

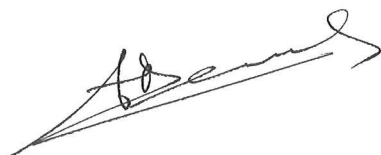
Bij e-mail van 8 juli 2014 heeft de instelling gereageerd op het voornemen tot besluit. Dit heeft geleid tot een aanpassing in het besluit.

De NVAO besluit accreditatie te verlenen aan de wo-master Environment and Resource Management (60 ECTS; variant: voltijd; locatie: Amsterdam; Afstudeerrichtingen: Energy Studies, Ecosystem Services and Biodiversity, Climate and Water Policy en Environmental Studies) van de Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam te Amsterdam. De NVAO beoordeelt de kwaliteit van de opleiding als voldoende.

Dit besluit treedt in werking op 31 juli 2014 en is van kracht tot en met 30 juli 2018 (2020)¹.

Den Haag, 31 juli 2014

De NVAO
Voor deze:



Ann Demeulemeester
(vicevoorzitter)

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 Gelet op het bepaalde in artikel 18.32c, derde lid, van de Wet op het hoger onderwijs en wetenschappelijk onderzoek (WHW) bedraagt de geldigheidsduur van de accreditatietermijn van de opleiding maximaal vier jaar zolang de instelling nog niet beschikt over een positieve instellingstoets kwaliteitszorg. Zodra de instellingstoets is verkregen, wordt de accreditatietermijn verlengd naar zes jaar.

Standaard	Omschrijving	Score
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 en gerealiseerde eindkwalificaties	De opleiding beschikt over een adequaat systeem van toetsing en 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.

Tabel 1: Rendement.

Cohort	2008	2009	2010
Rendement	80%	82%	86%

Tabel 2: Docentkwaliteit.

Graad	Ma	PhD	BKO
Percentage	10%	90%	84%

Tabel 3: Student-docentratio.

Ratio	25
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Tabel 4: Contacturen.

Studiejaar	1	2
Contacturen	12,5	n.v.t.

- Prof. W.A. Hafkamp, chair, professor in Environmental Economics, Erasmus University Rotterdam;
- Prof. I. Janssens, research professor at the University of Antwerp, affiliated to the research group of Plant and Vegetation Ecology;
- Prof. A.J. Jordan, professor of Environmental Politics, University of East Anglia, Norwich (UK);
- Prof. K.M. Bäckstrand, professor at the Department of Political Science, Lund University;
- L.H.A. van der Sanden, master student in Social and Political Sciences of the Environment, Radboud University Nijmegen.

Het panel werd ondersteund door dr. A. Venemans, secretaris (gecertificeerd).