

Besluit

Besluit strekkende tot het verlenen van accreditatie aan de opleiding wo-master Spatial, Transport and Environmental Economics van de Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam

	Gegevens
datum	25 september 2012
onderwerp	Definitief besluit accreditatie wo-master Spatial, Transport and Environmental Economics van de Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (000213)
uw kenmerk	CvB/EK/dv/2012/80
ons kenmerk	NVAO/20122960/ND
Naam instelling	: Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam
Naam opleiding	: wo-master Spatial, Transport and Environmental Economics (60 ECTS)
Datum aanvraag	: 24 januari 2012
Variant opleiding	: voltijd
Locatie opleiding	: Amsterdam
Datum goedkeuren panel	: 13 september 2011
Datum locatiebezoeken	: 10 en 11 oktober 2011
Datum visitatierapport	: januari 2012
Instellingstoets kwaliteitszorg:	aangemeld en geaccepteerd voor het invoeringsregime als bedoeld in artikel 18.32 c van de WHW

bijlagen

3

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 goed heeft bevonden.

Advies van het visitatiepanel

Samenvatting bevindingen en overwegingen panel.

The Master of Science study programme Spatial Transport and Environmental Economics (STREEM) of the VU University Amsterdam receives the judgement good. This is based on the judgement good that is given for the standards 2 (Educational learning environment) and 3 (Assessment and achieved learning outcomes). Standard 1 (Intended final learning outcomes) receives the judgement satisfactory.

Standard 1: Intended final learning outcomes

The STREEM study programme focuses on the interaction of three sub-disciplines: spatial economics, transport economics and environmental economics. This is clearly recognized in the intended learning outcomes.

Inlichtingen

Lineke van Bruggen
+31 (0)70 312 23 24
l.vanbruggen@nvaio.net

Parkstraat 28 | 2514 JK | Postbus 85498 | 2508 CD Den Haag
P.O. Box 85498 | 2508 CD The Hague | The Netherlands
T + 31 (0)70 312 2300 | F + 31 (0)70 312 2301
info@nvaio.net | www.nvaio.net

Pagina 2 van 7 The panel suggests that the balance of these three sub-disciplines could be made clearer, especially with respect to the interaction with the sub-discipline of environmental economics. The panel is impressed with the ambitions of STREEM, taking into account the relative small size of the programme. Management and staff will need a clear focus on the possibilities and opportunities to fulfil these ambitions of growth and expansion to involve international joint activities. The fact that the number of students is growing (slightly) creates space to follow up on the ambitions.

The panel finds that the programme complies with the demands of both the academic rigour and the professional fields related to the programme. The STREEM programme compares very favourably with other programmes in economics regarding current scientific practice. The programme is based on the use of state-of-the-art research and up-to-date knowledge of the disciplines.

The intended learning outcomes are refined by consultation with representatives from the appropriate fields of work (the Advisory Board). In these fields there is a clear need for alumni with knowledge and understanding of the disciplines involved in STREEM, with the ability to integrate aspects of the three sub-disciplines. Although there are no clearly defined careers, the alumni obtain interesting positions at the intended academic level in companies (KLM, Arcadis, NS/Prorail) and governmental organisations (ministry of transport).

Taking into account the small size of the STREEM programme, the panel finds that the study programme lives up to its standards. The final qualifications are adequate. To fulfil the ambition to develop the programme careful management of future activities, and expansion of student numbers will be required.

Standard 2: Teaching-learning environment

The panel finds the STREEM programme well thought out and clear in its structure. The content maps onto the intended learning outcomes. The three sub-disciplines are clearly present and students learn to master the tools to integrate and research the disciplines. The emphasis on environmental aspects is rather less than on the other sub-disciplines. The panel recommends further thought be given to this point. After the core courses in the three sub-disciplines, students can broaden or deepen their choice of subjects in the elective courses.

Students know what to expect and can receive all the necessary information and guidance. The lines of communication to staff members are short and staff members are open to questions from students.

Staff members have a clear picture of the goals of the programme and are capable of incorporating these in the delivery of the programme. From regular evaluations, discussions and staff meetings, there is good agreement about the coherence of the programme. This is formally monitored by the Programme Committee and Education Committee. The didactical methods suit the scale and the academic character of the programme. Students work in small sized groups, a guarantee for interaction and class participation.

The panel finds the quality of staff to be more than adequate. All sub-disciplines are present at the desired level. Members of the teaching staff are very experienced in research and have good connections with the relevant work fields.

Both formally (through evaluations by the Programme Committee and checks by the Education Committee) and informally (through lecturer – student contacts) there is solid input for quality assurance. The Education Committee has a signalling role. The Programme Committee can use this as an input for making improvements to the programme. Alumni state that among the teaching staff there is a great willingness to use evaluation results for the further improvement of the programme. Both lecturers and students seem to be eager to enhance performance.

Pagina 3 van 7 The panel finds that the STREEM programme offers a good learning environment for students with good opportunities to become STREEM-professionals and –researchers. The programme and its staff challenge students. Students feel inspired and satisfied. They feel that the programme is worthwhile and useful. STREEM offers a diverse programme with many opportunities for students, if compared with other MSc programmes with low numbers of students. It is impressive how only 1.2 fte can realise almost tailor made trajectories for students.

The panel assesses the teaching-learning environment as good and above average compared to comparable sized MSc programmes. There are elements of excellence, especially regarding the quality of staff.

Standard 3: Assessment and achieved learning outcomes

The panel concludes from the documentation and interviews, that the study programme has overall a good system of assessment that is regularly evaluated and discussed. A variety of exams and assignments is used, which fit with the learning objectives and content of the courses. The types of exams and the exam criteria are clearly pointed out to the students in the Study Guide and in the explanations lecturers give during class meetings. Students state that the examinations and the grading are clear to them and they have no complaints. Lecturers and the programme manager regularly discuss the examination and master thesis grading. This creates a platform, where lecturers exchange their experiences and fine-tune their criteria for grading. There is good quality assurance by the independent Examination Board and the regular evaluations made by the Programme Committee.

The panel finds that the study programme has a good standard for the realisation of the learning outcomes. The panel finds that students are challenged to perform well. Independence is clearly an important factor.

From scrutiny of 15 theses, the panel concludes that the subject of the theses fit with the content and aims of the programme. The examiners use a rigorous standard when grading the theses. The higher quality projects and the more complex projects do receive the highest grades. All theses are acceptable for the standards set for an academic master's programme.

The work field is eager for alumni and alumni are able to find good positions in the work field.

The formal assurance by the Examination Board is organized according to the legal requirements. The Programme Committee keeps good track of performance by means of regular evaluations of courses and the programme as a whole.

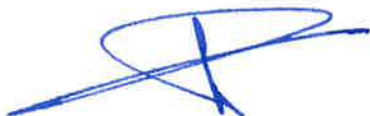
The panel finds that the study programme has a good organization for the examinations and for the thesis phase. The small size of the programme works beneficially. The lines of communication between students, lecturers and programme management are short and clear. Communication is direct and there are few discrepancies in expectations regarding examinations and grading. The final qualifications of alumni are good and clearly meet the standards and this is monitored and examined in a fair and rigorous manner.

Op grond van het voorgaande besluit de NVAO accreditatie te verlenen aan de wo-master Spatial, Transport and Environmental Economics (60 ECTS; variant: voltijd; locatie: Amsterdam) van de Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam te Amsterdam. De NVAO beoordeelt de kwaliteit van de opleiding als goed. Ingevolge het bepaalde in artikel 5a.10, tweede lid, van de WHW heeft de NVAO college van bestuur van de Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam te Amsterdam in de gelegenheid gesteld zijn zienswijze op het voornemen tot besluit van 4 september 2012 naar voren te brengen. Van deze gelegenheid is geen gebruik gemaakt.

Dit besluit treedt in werking op 12 februari 2013 en is van kracht tot en met 11 februari 2016 (2019)¹.

Den Haag, 25 september 2012

Nederlands-Vlaamse Accreditatieorganisatie



R.P. Zevenbergen
(bestuurder)

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 (Wet WO) bedraagt de geldigheidsduur van de accreditatietermijn van de opleiding maximaal drie jaar zolang de instelling nog niet beschikt over een positieve instellingstoets kwaliteitszorg. Zodra de instellingstoets is verkregen, wordt de accreditatietermijn verlengd naar zes jaar.

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

De standaarden krijgen het oordeel onvoldoende (O), voldoende (V), goed (G) of excellent (E). Het eindoordeel over de opleiding als geheel wordt op dezelfde schaal gegeven.

Docent-student ratio	2007-2008: 1:8 2008-2009: 1:13 2009-2010: 1:12 2010- 2011: 1:19
Kwalificatie docenten	All lecturers are involved in research and education. Over 75% of the Departments staff has a PhD. Among the lecturers in the STREEM programme there are nine staff members holding a Full Professor (hoogleraar) position, two are Associate Professor (Universitair Hoofddocent), three are Assistant Professor (Universitair docent) and two have research positions. Furthermore a substantial group of national and international guest researchers are involved in the Department. Several staff members also hold part-time positions at other highly ranked institutes (e.g. Tinbergen Institute, CPB, Netherlands Bureau for Economic Policy Analysis, Ecorys).
Studielast	Overall the indicated study load is realistic for the study programme as a whole
Contacturen	Periode 1, 2 en 4: 12 contacturen per week Periode 3, 5 en 6: 3 contacturen per week
Rendement	2007: 38% na 1 jaar, 78% na 2 jaar, 22% niet afgemaakt (totaal 9 studenten) 2008: 62% na 1 jaar, 85% na 2 jaar, 92% na 3 jaar, 8% niet afgemaakt (totaal 13 studenten) 2009: 70% na 1 jaar, nog geen uitval (totaal 10 studenten).

- prof. R.W. Vickerman, (voorzitter) Professor of European Economics and Dean of the University of Kent at Brussels;
- prof. dr. G.R. Allaert, (lid) Senior Professor Spatial planning and regional development, Ghent University, head of the Research Centre for Mobility and Spatial Planning and the chairman of the Institute of sustainable mobility, both situated at the Faculty of Engineering, Ghent University, Belgium;
- prof. dr. A. Tukker, (lid) Program Manager Sustainable Innovation at TNO Built Environment and Geosciences; Business Unit Innovation and Environment, Delft, The Netherlands. Since April 2010 also professor of Sustainable Innovation at Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU) in Trondheim, Norway (part time, 20%);
- K.M.C. Lageweg, (student-lid) Master student of the master programme Environmental Sciences at Wageningen University.

Als gecertificeerd secretaris trad op ir. M. Dekker-Joziase, NQA-auditor.