

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	Naam instelling	: Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam
31 oktober 2017	Naam opleiding	: wo-master Spatial, Transport and Environmental Economics (60 EC)
onderwerp	Datum aanvraag	: 25 april 2017
Besluit	Variant opleiding	: voltijd
accreditatie wo-master	Locatie opleiding	: Amsterdam
Spatial, Transport and Environmental Economics van de Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam	Datum goedkeuren panel	: 13 september 2016
(005636)	Datum locatiebezoeken	: 10, 11 en 18 november 2016
uw kenmerk	Datum visitatierapport	: 6 maart 2017
CVB/JWB/2017/347	Instellingstoets kwaliteitszorg	: ja, positief besluit van 3 september 2014
ons kenmerk		
NVAO/20172470/LL		

bijlagen

Beoordelingskader

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

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.

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 programme Master Spatial, Transport and Environmental Economics of Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, which has been assessed according to the NVAO Assessment Framework.

The panel observes programme management has taken up the recommendations made in the previous assessment in 2011. Programme management, among others, now requires students to select at least two out of three core courses that are offered (one for each

Pagina 2 van 6 specialisation), interconnected the research project and the master thesis more closely and started offering programme-specific tutorials on microeconomics.

The panel is positive about the Faculty's objectives to educate students not only in academic and professional knowledge and skills but also to train them to become responsibly thinking and acting professionals or academics. The latter is a distinct and valuable characteristic of the Vrije Universiteit economics programmes.

The panel supports the plan of programme management to change the name of the programme into a name, more telling for prospective students.

The panel is positive about the broadness and the depth of the programme objectives, to educate students to understand and analyse the relationships between a wide variety of spatial economics phenomena and to address all three spatial economics sub-disciplines, being regional and urban economics, transport economics and environmental economics.

The programme intended learning outcomes meet the programme objectives, exhibiting, among others, disciplinary knowledge of theory and methods of spatial economics in a broad sense, academic level of thinking, research skills and professional problem-solving skills. The learning outcomes are consistent with the domain-specific reference framework, which has been drafted by this Faculty and the economics programmes of Erasmus University Rotterdam and Wageningen University. In addition, they correspond to master level requirements.

Programme management conducted a sound comparison to other master programmes in the Netherlands and abroad in this field. The distinctive feature of this programme, addressing all three sub-disciplines of spatial economics, is evident from this comparison.

As the number of incoming students has been and seems to remain somewhat limited, the panel recommends to try and raise this number.

The panel considers the admission requirements and processes satisfactory, but recommends to further develop the deficiency programme and make it more suitable for international students.

The curriculum reflects all the programme intended learning outcomes adequately and evenly. The panel advises to raise the number of specialisation courses for the environmental economics sub-discipline. Although the curriculum is adequate content-wise, the panel recommends to consider redesigning it to improve the coherence, taking the opportunity to reflect on the underlying concept.

The panel is satisfied about the educational principles and the study methods of the programme, as these are conducive to the students' learning processes. The number of contact hours is adequate. The policies regarding the introduction and deployment of new and innovative study methods are satisfactory.

Programme management monitors the study pace of the students adequately. The student success rates may be considered to be satisfactory, although the completion rate of 38 % in one year and the average study duration of 17 months could be more favourable, given the small scale of the programme.

Pagina 3 van 6 The panel approves of the lecturers deployment and evaluation procedures, as they ensure qualified lecturers to teach in the programme. The panel regards the lecturers to be very good researchers, working in the forefront of their field of expertise, and approves of the educational capabilities of the lecturers. The panel recommends programme management to intensify collaboration among lecturers, in order to strengthen the shared concept and the coherence of the programme.

The examination and assessment rules and regulations of the programme are adequate. They conform to the Vrije Universiteit and Faculty of Economics and Business Administration policy statements and include, among others, measures to assure the examinations' validity, the reliability of assessments and the competencies and expertise of examiners.

The examination methods in the programme are in line with the course contents to be assessed. The diversity of examination methods in courses and across courses allow for the assessment of knowledge and skills, relevant to the programme.

The panel observes programme management having drafted a comprehensive thesis manual in which the timeline of the thesis process has been explained clearly. The supervision of the thesis is well organised. The thesis assessment process is a reliable process, as at least two examiners are involved and sound assessment forms are used. The panel welcomes the transition process from assessment forms to scoring models or rubrics, as these may raise the quality of the assessments further.

The panel ascertained the Examination Board to have the responsibilities and to work along the lines, as intended by Dutch applicable law. The Board monitors the examination and assessment processes and inspects examinations. The panel recommends to step up these inspections and to include theses in the quality assurance checks, as the Examination Board plans to do.

The panel finds the course examinations of the courses to be of adequate quality and to be challenging. The panel studied four theses of students, which ranged from satisfactory to very good. Not one of the theses is considered by the panel to be unsatisfactory. The panel agrees with the grades of the theses, as given by the examiners. The panel is positive about the positions the graduates have been able to obtain.

The panel assesses the programme Master Spatial, Transport and Environmental Economics of Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam to be satisfactory and advises NVAO to grant to this programme re-accreditation.

Aanbevelingen

De NVAO onderschrijft de aanbevelingen van het panel.

Pagina 4 van 6 **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 4 september 2017 naar voren te brengen. Bij e-mail van 19 september 2017 heeft de instelling van deze gelegenheid gebruik gemaakt. Dit heeft geleid tot enkele tekstuele aanpassingen.

De NVAO besluit accreditatie te verlenen aan de wo-master Spatial, Transport and Environmental Economics (60 EC; variant: voltijd; locatie: Amsterdam) van de Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam te Amsterdam. De opleiding kent geen afstudeerrichtingen. De NVAO beoordeelt de kwaliteit van de opleiding als voldoende.

Dit besluit treedt in werking op 31 oktober 2017 en is van kracht tot en met 30 oktober 2023.

Den Haag, 31 oktober 2017

Namens het bestuur van de NVAO

Voor deze,

i.a. 

Mr. L.B. Kroes
Directeur Nederland

René Hageman
Afdelingshoofd Nederland

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.

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.	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	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. dr. T.J. Wansbeek, (voorzitter) Emeritus Professor of Statistics and Econometrics, University of Groningen;
- Prof. dr. J. Hartog, (lid) Emeritus Professor of Microeconomics with visiting scholar position, University of Amsterdam;
- Prof. dr. R. Kabir, (lid) Professor and Chair of Corporate Finance and Risk Management, University of Twente;
- S.M. van den Hoek, (student-lid) student Bachelor programme Tax Economics, University of Amsterdam.

Het panel werd ondersteund door drs. W. Vercoeteren RC, secretaris (gecertificeerd).