

Besluit **Besluit strekkende tot het verlenen van accreditatie aan de opleiding wo-master Environmental Sciences van de Universiteit Utrecht**

	Gegevens	
datum	31 juli 2014	Naam instelling : Universiteit Utrecht
onderwerp	Environmental Sciences van de Universiteit Utrecht (002467)	Naam opleiding : wo-master Environmental Sciences (120 ECTS)
uw kenmerk	Besluit accreditatie wo-master Environmental Sciences van de Universiteit Utrecht (002467)	Datum aanvraag : 9 januari 2014
ons kenmerk	NVAO/20142680/SL	Variant opleiding : voltijd
bijlagen	3	Afstudeerrichtingen : Sustainable Development Water Science and Management
		Locatie opleiding : Utrecht
		Datum goedkeuren panel : 3 juni 2013
		Datum locatiebezoeken : 26 en 27 september 2013
		Datum visitatierapport : 25 november 2013

Instellingstoets kwaliteitszorg : ja, positief besluit van 12 juli 2012

Aanvullende informatie

De NVAO heeft bij e-mail van 25 april 2014 de instelling aanvullende informatie gevraagd over enkele kwantitatieve gegevens. Bij e-mail van 17 juni 2014 heeft de NVAO de aanvullende informatie ontvangen. De NVAO heeft deze informatie in haar oordeelsvorming betrokken.

Beoordelingskader

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

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.

Samenvatting bevindingen en overwegingen van het panel (hierna ook: the committee).

Standard 1: Intended learning outcomes

The committee established that the Dutch-Flemish referential framework for academic environmental education reveals that the participating institutes are well aware of current developments and relevant questions in the field of environmental sciences. It is convinced that the domain-specific framework offers a solid foundation for the environmental sciences. It verified that the programme's intended learning outcomes are well aligned with the Dutch-Flemish referential framework and that all Dublin descriptors are reflected in them.

The master programme Environmental Sciences can be characterized as a two-year, multidisciplinary, research-oriented, scientific programme that acquaints students with both natural and social sciences. It is designed to: (a) offer an integrative overview and capabilities to collaborate beyond disciplinary boundaries; and (b) simultaneously allow students to specialise in various application fields by offering depth in mastering relevant theories and dominant research methodologies in that application field.

The committee is impressed by the way the programme's dual mission combines breadth using integrated perspectives on sustainable development with in-depth knowledge of relevant application fields.

The committee verified that the programme equips students to successfully pursue a career in research but also prepares them for other careers, such as in consultancy, government and not for profit organisations.

Standard 2: Teaching-learning environment

The programme is offered by the Faculty of Geosciences, Department of Innovation, Environmental and Energy Sciences (IEES) and is a full-time, two-year programme. The first year is predominately comprised of theoretical and methodological course modules and optional fieldwork. The first-year students follow eight course modules of 7.5 EC each. During the second year, students follow two to four courses. The remaining time is devoted to individual research-related activities that include an independent research project. These activities culminate in the writing of the master thesis.

Based on their interests, students entering the programme select one of the following specialisation programmes and application fields in the Environmental Sciences programme: Energy and Resources (ER); Global Change and Ecosystems (GCE); Environmental Governance (EG) or International Development (ID).

The committee established that the curriculum reflects the broad, multidisciplinary field of the Environmental Sciences. It approves the way the programme presents its dual mission of being broad in combination with in-depth knowledge within the four tracks.

The programme takes part in the Joint International Master in Sustainable Development (JIMiSD). In this consortium, four EU and for non-EU universities have joined forces. The committee appreciates the international orientation of the programme. However, during the site visit, it gained the impression that the opportunities in JIMiSD could be used better to benefit both students and the programme.

The didactic principle of the programme is based on the philosophy that students acquire knowledge, research skills and competences best by means of a mix of teaching methods with an emphasis on self-study, teaching methods that stimulate students, and continuous assessment. The committee established that this didactic principle is supported by the working methods used.

The committee was impressed by the highly motivated and skilled academic staff. It gained

Pagina 3 van 7 the general impression that the staff has to deal with a high workload but realizes that this is almost inevitable for university teaching staff with an intended teaching load of 60%. Throughout the years, the number of students enrolling in the master programme ES has gradually risen to 100. The committee considers this intake healthy. It applauds the broad range of nationalities and backgrounds of the students. The IEES Study Advisor carries out the individual study coaching for all bachelor and master students in IEES programmes. The Study Advisor plays a major role in assuring coherency in the individual curriculum of each student. Apart from the Study Advisor, the programme manager is involved in this. The committee noted that the programme has a very active system of continuous improvement of the courses and appreciates the way the students' voices are heard.

Standard 3: Assessment and achieved learning outcomes

The committee established that the programme has a good testing system in place. It applauds the use of test matrices and grading models. The quality assurance of examinations consists of three elements: a) professionalization of the teaching staff regarding examinations; b) evaluation of the quality of examinations by the teaching staff; and c) programme management-independent evaluation of examinations by the Board of Examiners. The committee was impressed by the very active way in which the quality assurance is offered. It greatly appreciates how the Board of Examiners has implemented its new role and responsibilities resulting from the changes in the Higher Education and Research Act introduced in September 2010.

The committee read and assessed a selection of ten master theses. It is of the opinion that the theses show that students have acquired knowledge and understanding at a level that matches a master programme and that they are able to conduct research at that level as well. It was impressed by the quality of some of the theses. In general, it agreed with the grades awarded. The committee also studied the assessment forms attached to the theses and concluded that the written evaluation provided on the assessment form was extensive and helpful for the students.

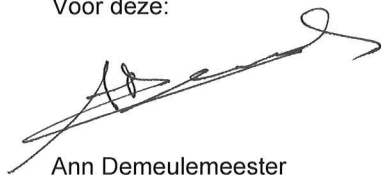
Ingevolge het bepaalde in artikel 5a.10, derde lid, van de WHW heeft de NVAO het college van bestuur van de Universiteit Utrecht te Utrecht in de gelegenheid gesteld zijn zienswijze op het voornemen tot besluit van 10 juni 2014 naar voren te brengen. Bij e-mail van 14 juli 2014 heeft de instelling gereageerd op het voornemen tot besluit. Dit heeft geleid tot een aanpassing in het besluit.

De NVAO besluit accreditatie te verlenen aan de wo-master Environmental Sciences (120 ECTS; variant: voltijd; locatie: Utrecht) van de Universiteit Utrecht te Utrecht. De opleiding kent de volgende afstudeerrichtingen: Sustainable Development; Water Science and Management. 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 2020.

Den Haag, 31 juli 2014

De NVAO
Voor deze:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ann Demeulemeester', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

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.

Standaard	Omschrijving	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 en gerealiseerde eindkwalificaties	De opleiding beschikt over een adequaat systeem van toetsing en toont aan dat de beoogde eindkwalificaties worden gerealiseerd	Goed
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	2010	2011	2012
Rendement	76%	73%	0%

Tabel 2: Docentkwaliteit.

Graad	Ma	PhD	BKO
Percentage	100%	100%	95%

Tabel 3: Student-docentratio.

Ratio	38.46:1
--------------	---------

Tabel 4: Contacturen.

Studiejaar	1	2
Contacturen	11.1	8.7

Year 2 excl. Thesis supervision which is 50 hrs for 45 EC thesis and 33,6 hrs for 30 EC thesis

Pagina 7 van 7 **Bijlage 3: panelsamenstelling**

- Prof. W.A. Hafkamp, chair, professor in Environmental Sciences, Erasmus University Rotterdam;
- Prof. I. Janssens, research professor at the University of Antwerp, research group of Plant and Vegetation Ecology;
- Prof. A. Jamison, professor in Technology, Environment and Society, Aalborg University, Denmark;
- Prof. I. Loots, professor at the Sociology Department and the Institute of the Environment and Sustainable Development (IMDO), University of Antwerp;
- L.H.A. van der Sanden Bsc, master student in Social and Political Sciences of the Environment, Radboud University Nijmegen.

Het panel werd ondersteund door E. Poort, secretaris (gecertificeerd).