

Besluit Besluit strekkende tot het verlenen van accreditatie aan de opleiding wo-bachelor Milieu-natuurwetenschappen van de Universiteit Utrecht

Gegevens

datum	Naam instelling	: Universiteit Utrecht
31 juli 2014	Naam opleiding	: wo-bachelor Milieu-natuurwetenschappen (180 ECTS)
onderwerp	Datum aanvraag	: 20 december 2013
Besluit accreditatie wo-bachelor	Variant opleiding	: voltijd
Milieu-natuurwetenschappen	Locatie opleiding	: Utrecht
van de Universiteit Utrecht	Datum goedkeuren	
(002465)	panel	: 3 juni 2013
uw kenmerk	Datum locatiebezoek	: 26 en 27 september 2013
	Datum visitatierapport	: 25 november 2013
ons kenmerk		
NVAO/20142680/SL	Instellingstoets kwaliteitszorg	: ja, positief besluit van 12 juli 2012
bijlagen		
3		

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 beoordeling 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. The committee is convinced that the domain-specific framework offers a solid foundation for the environmental sciences. In the light of the domain-specific reference, the MNW programme can be characterised as a multidisciplinary programme that unites the natural and social sciences. It is rooted in the natural sciences and focuses on the analytical competence required for understanding environmental problems as well as finding solutions.

The committee verified that the programme objective and the intended learning outcomes are well aligned with the Dutch-Flemish referential framework and that all Dublin descriptors are reflected in the intended learning outcomes. It appreciates the multidisciplinary approach and is convinced that the programme equips students to participate successfully in postgraduate training programmes.

Standard 2: Teaching-learning environment

The MNW programme is offered by the Faculty of Geosciences, Department of Innovation, Environmental and Energy Sciences (IEES) and is a three-year, full-time programme. It consists of 75 EC mandatory courses and 60 EC electives ('majorgebonden keuzecursussen'). The remaining 45 EC can be taken with any course offered by Utrecht University or another university. Students complete their bachelor programme with a bachelor thesis (7.5 EC). The programme is partly interwoven with the bachelor programme Environmental Studies. The committee established that every learning outcome receives attention in the curriculum and that the distribution of the learning outcomes over the curriculum is even and appropriate.

The committee is in favour of the demand-driven design of the MNW programme and appreciates the free elective part that provides room for students to specialise following their own interests. However, it also noted that the high proportion of electives detracts from the coherence of the programme. It feels that it is left up to the students to find a good balance of 'breadth and depth' and advises offering more support to students in finding their way towards a coherent, personalized curriculum.

The didactic principle of the programme is based on the philosophy that students acquire knowledge, research skills and competence 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 is impressed by the highly motivated and skilled academic staff. It gained 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%.

Between 2006 and 2012 the bachelor programme MNW had an intake ranging from 18 to 37 students. The committee thinks the enrolment is on the low side but not so low that the programme would not be viable, taking into account that also students of other programmes enrol in its courses. The IEES Study Advisor provides individual study coaching for all bachelor and master students in IEES programmes. The Study Advisor plays a major role in assuring coherency in each student's individual curriculum. Although the committee appreciates the support and guidance offered, it thinks that the students need stronger guidance in choosing their electives.

Pagina 3 van 7 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 is impressed by the active attitude towards quality assurance. It highly appreciates the way the Board of Examiners implemented their 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 bachelor theses. It established that some of them were narrow in scope and didn't have a multidisciplinary approach. It understands that this is partly a consequence of the rather small study load allocated (7.5 EC). Although none of these ten theses were considered to be unsatisfactory, the committee thinks it is questionable to call them a thesis. It advises either expanding the allocated study load to at least 15 EC or use a different term for this element of the programme.

Aanbevelingen

De NVAO onderschrijft de aanbevelingen van het panel, in het bijzonder de aanbeveling over de bachelorthesis.

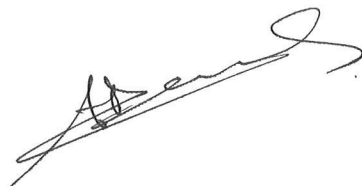
Ingevolge het bepaalde in artikel 5a.10, tweede lid, van de WHW heeft de NVAO het college van bestuur van de Universiteit Utrecht te Utrecht in de gelegenheid gesteld zijn zienswijze op het voornemen tot besluit van 10 juni 2014 naar voren te brengen. Van deze gelegenheid is geen gebruik gemaakt.

De NVAO besluit accreditatie te verlenen aan de wo-bachelor Milieu-natuurwetenschappen (180 ECTS; variant: voltijd; locatie: Utrecht) van de Universiteit Utrecht te Utrecht. 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', written over a horizontal line.

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	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: Uitval na 1, 2, en 3 jaar.

Cohort	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Uitval na 1jr	19%	22%	15%	13%	20%	18%
Uitval na 2jr	26%	22%	19%	13%	20%	
Uitval na 3jr	26%	26%	19%	13%		

Tabel 2: Rendement (vwo-instroom).

Cohort	2007	2008	2009	2010
Rendement na 3 jaar	41%	48%	33%	21%
Rendement na 4 jaar	82%	86%	90%	
Rendement na 5 jaar	91%	95%		
Rendement na 6 ⁽⁺⁾ jaar	91%			

Tabel 3: Rendement (totale instroom).

Cohort	2007	2008	2009	2010
Rendement na 3 jaar	39%	45%	33%	19%
Rendement na 4 jaar	86%	86%	90%	
Rendement na 5 jaar	93%	95%		
Rendement na 6 ⁽⁺⁾ jaar	93%			

Tabel 4: Docentkwaliteit.

Graad	Ma	PhD	BKO
Percentage	100%	76%	96%

Tabel 5: Student-docentratio.

Ratio	13.30
-------	-------

Tabel 6: Contacturen.

Studiejaar	1	2	3
Contacturen	13.0	15.1	11.8

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).