

Besluit

Besluit strekkende tot een oordeel positief onder voorwaarden van een aanvraag toets nieuwe opleiding van de wo-master Philosophy, Politics and Economics van de Rijksuniversiteit Groningen

	Gegevens	
datum	Instelling	: Rijksuniversiteit Groningen
31 januari 2017	Opleiding	: wo-master Philosophy, Politics and Economics
onderwerp	Variant(en)	: voltijd, deeltijd
Besluit	Locatie	: Groningen
Toets nieuwe opleiding	Studieomvang (EC)	: 60
wo-master	Datum macrodoelmatigheidsbesluit	: 11 juli 2016
Philosophy, Politics and	Datum aanvraag	: 18 juli 2016
Economics van de		
Rijksuniversiteit Groningen	Datum locatiebezoek	: 13 oktober 2016
(005029)	Datum paneladvies	: 24 oktober 2016
uw kenmerk	Instellingstoets kwaliteitszorg	: ja, positief besluit van 29 juli 2014
ABJZ 16/07583		
ons kenmerk		
NVAO/20170119/ND		
bijlage	Beoordelingskaders	
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Beoordelingskader voor de beperkte toets nieuwe opleiding van de NVAO (Stcrt. 2014, nr 36791). - Artikel 5a.11, vierde lid, van de Wet op het hoger onderwijs en wetenschappelijk onderzoek (WHW) (Stb. 2010, 293) - Artikel 1 van het Accreditatiebesluit WHW (Stb. 2011, 536) 	

Bevindingen

De NVAO stelt vast dat in het paneladvies deugdelijk en kenbaar is gemotiveerd op welke gronden het panel de kwaliteit van de opleiding positief onder voorwaarden heeft bevonden.

Advies panel

Samenvatting bevindingen en overwegingen van het panel.

The academic master programme Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE) at the University of Groningen is coordinated by the Faculty of Philosophy, but designed and offered in close collaboration with other faculties (Faculty of Economics and Business, Faculty of Behavioural and Social Sciences, Faculty of Arts). The programme intends to equip students with the necessary attitude, insight and skills to allow them to combine the knowledge and understanding from Philosophy, Politics and Economics with a creative and

Pagina 2 van 6 solution-focused approach to today's complex social problems. The programme strikes a good balance between research-based and application-based aims and is in line with international developments. The intended learning outcomes of the programme are presented in the framework of the Dublin descriptors. The academic character is described in terms of the level of learning outcomes, which aim at the highest levels of application, analysis, synthesis and evaluation. Additional evidence of the academic character is the selective admission procedure and the fact that students also learn by directly engaging with scientific research. All courses are given by staff members who are active and accomplished researchers. Job prospects for PPE graduates are not only in public organisations but also in business, journalism, banking and NGOs. The representatives from three work fields (journalism, banking, and law) whom the panel met during the site visit, were interested and committed. They think the PPE programme is a useful preparation for positions in their sectors and would like to be involved in the programme in an advisory role or e.g. by presenting cases in a seminar. The panel concludes that the intended learning outcomes of the PPE programme meet the standard.

The programme is taught in English and consists of nine modules of 5 EC each and a 15 EC master thesis. Three modules constitute the shared academic core of the programme, on methods, theories and the history of PPE. As proposed, two seminar courses run parallel to the first two core courses and give students the opportunity to apply what they have learned to concrete cases. Students select four PPE electives, one or two of which may be replaced by an internship. The three PPE disciplines are well integrated in the core curriculum, but the attention for impact assessment methods, an important tool in economic and policy research, is not strong enough in the methods course. The panel thinks this is a critical omission. The panel also thinks that it is more effective to organise the core courses and seminars sequentially instead of concurrently, because students should have a full grasp of theories and of methods before they are asked to apply them. A key feature of PPE is the recognition that certain problems can be well-addressed only by using together the robust suite of tools the three disciplines offer. In addition, in view of the importance of learning how to apply knowledge and skills to actual cases, the panel recommends offering a third PPE seminar instead of one of the electives. An internship may be useful for students, depending on their background and aims. The panel recommends developing a more elaborate vision on the role of internships. Writing a thesis while involved with an organisation and using authentic data may also be an interesting way to strengthen the link with the work field. The panel expects, based on the interview with representatives from the work field, that PPE will also be attractive for part time students. The panel advises making the programme equally attractive and feasible for full time and part time students and to aim to keep both groups together in class to facilitate interaction and create diversity. The core staff is excellent, on an outstanding, internationally recognised level, and is clearly committed to teaching in the programme. Students find their teachers very accessible and helpful. Academic guidance is provided for by the student advisor and an academic mentor for each student.

The small class size, of a maximum annual intake of 25 students, and a staff-student ratio of 1:18 will provide favourable conditions for the development of the intended analytical and critical skills and attitude. Admission to the programme is selective, based on previous performance and motivation. In view of the ambitions of the interdisciplinary programme it is important that all students have a sufficient knowledge of the three constituting disciplines, from the beginning of the programme. The programme staff plans to provide prospective students from monodisciplinary backgrounds with an approximately 1,000 page reading list

Pagina 3 van 6 to prepare them for the required level of the other disciplines. The panel thinks that a reading list by itself will not be enough: reading without discussion will not lead to sufficient understanding. The panel fears that this will affect the quality of discussion in class and believes that a formal assessment is necessary at an appropriate point (not necessarily before the start of the programme, but also not too late so as to avoid unnecessary delays). The panel thinks there are better, more interactive, ways to bring all students to the necessary minimum level, but in all cases a formal assessment is essential. The need for assessment partly motivates the conditional nature of the panel's positive advice.

The panel is positive about the structure and contents of the programme, except for the insufficient attention in the methods course for impact assessment. The staff is excellent and conditions for intensive teaching and guidance are good. The admission procedure is well-considered and based on appropriate criteria. The panel thinks, however, that providing a reading list without assessment is not enough to remedy possible deficiencies of incoming students. Pending the addition of impact assessment to the methods course and a better system to remedy deficiencies, the panel concludes that the teaching-learning environment of the PPE programme partially meets the standard.

The assessment of the students' progress is formulated in the assessment plan. Students are assessed through a balanced mix of assessment methods: exams using essay-type questions, weekly assignments and individual essays, reports and group or individual presentations. Students are informed timely about the form of assessment and the criteria that will be applied. The quality of examinations or assessment is judged in advance by way of peer review among teaching staff. In order to guarantee uniform assessment across the programme the department uses assessment forms with clear criteria to mark similar assignments such as presentations, essays and the master thesis. The Examination Board evaluates and monitors the implementation of the assessment plan and takes its legal role seriously. The panel concludes that the assessment meets the standard.

The embedding of the PPE programme in the long-term plans of the respective faculties is good and supported by adequate financial investments. The expected intake numbers seem realistic. If unforeseen circumstances or disappointing student numbers would make it necessary to discontinue the programme, the faculty guarantees that students can complete the entire curriculum. The panel concludes that the financial provisions and graduation guarantee meet the standard.

Given these considerations, the panel advises NVAO to take a conditionally positive decision regarding the quality of the proposed programme wo-master Philosophy, Politics and Economics at the University of Groningen. The panel has formulated two conditions:

1. Develop and have a system in place to assess at an appropriate time whether deficiencies have been addressed and thus to ensure that all students have a sufficient level of knowledge in the three PPE disciplines;
2. Redesign the methods course and include proper attention for impact assessment methods.

Advies van het panel

Het panel adviseert de NVAO om positief onder voorwaarden te besluiten ten aanzien van de kwaliteit van de nieuwe opleiding wo master Philosophy, Politics and Economics van de Rijksuniversiteit Groningen.

De NVAO onderschrijft de aanbevelingen van het panel.

Besluit

Ingevolge het bepaalde in artikel 5a.10, derde lid, in verbinding met artikel 5a.11, achtste lid van de WHW heeft de NVAO het college van bestuur van de Rijksuniversiteit Groningen te (Groningen) in de gelegenheid gesteld zijn zienswijze op het voornemen tot besluit d.d. 9 januari 2017 naar voren te brengen. Bij e-mail van 16 januari 2017 heeft het college van bestuur ingestemd met het voornemen tot besluit.

De NVAO besluit de aanvraag beperkte Toets nieuwe opleiding van de opleiding wo-master Philosophy, Politics and Economics (60 EC; variant: voltijd, deeltijd ; locatie: Groningen) van de Rijksuniversiteit Groningen te Groningen als positief onder voorwaardente beoordelen.

De voorwaarden zijn:

- Het ontwikkelen en implementeren van een systeem dat toetst of de deficiënties van instromende studenten zijn weggenomen en zo verzekeren dat alle studenten het benodigde kennisniveau in alle drie de PPE disciplines bezitten;
- De methodenvakken herontwerpen en hierin voldoende aandacht besteden aan impact assessment.

De termijn waarbinnen aan deze voorwaarden moet zijn voldaan bepaalt de NVAO op twaalf maanden.

Uiterlijk (zes) maanden voor afloop van de termijn van de voorwaarden, levert de instelling documentatie aan de NVAO waarin zij aangeeft hoe aan de voorwaarden is voldaan.

Graad: Master of Science

Advies Croho-onderdeel: sectoroverstijgend.

Van kracht tot en met 30 januari 2018

Den Haag, 31 januari 2017

De NVAO
Voor deze:



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.

Onderwerp	Standaarden	Oordeel
1 Beoogde eindkwalificaties	De beoogde eindkwalificaties van de opleiding zijn wat betreft inhoud, niveau en oriëntatie geconcretiseerd en voldoen aan internationale eisen	Voldoet
2 Onderwijsleeromgeving	Het programma, het personeel en de opleidingsspecifieke voorzieningen maken het voor de instromende studenten mogelijk de beoogde eindkwalificaties te realiseren	Voldoet ten dele
3 Toetsing	De opleiding beschikt over een adequaat systeem van toetsing	Voldoet
4 Afstudeergarantie en financiële voorzieningen	De instelling geeft aan studenten de garantie dat het programma volledig kan worden <i>doorlopen en stelt toereikende financiële voorzieningen beschikbaar</i>	Voldoet
Algemene conclusie		Positief onder voorwaarden

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- Prof. dr. Martin Stokhof (chair), professor (emeritus) of Philosophy of Language at the University of Amsterdam;
- Prof. dr. Geoffrey Sayre-McCord, Morehead-Cain Alumni Distinguished Professor of Philosophy at the University of North Carolina, Director of the UNC Philosophy, Politics and Economics Program;
- Prof. dr. Peter Niesen, professor of Political Science/ Political Theory at the Universität Hamburg;
- Prof. dr. Bas ter Weel, managing director of SEO Amsterdam Economics and professor of Economics at the University of Amsterdam;
- Ferdi Verhulst BA, master student in Governance at VU University Amsterdam.

Het panel werd bijgestaan door drs. Lisette Winsemius, beleidsmedewerker NVAO, procescoördinator, en dr. Marianne van der Weiden, secretaris (gecertificeerd).