

Besluit

Besluit strekkende tot het verlenen van accreditatie aan de opleiding wo-bachelor Economie en Beleid van de Wageningen University

	Gegevens	
datum	Naam instelling	: Wageningen University
31 mei 2017	Naam opleiding	: wo-bachelor
onderwerp		Economie en Beleid (180 EC)
Besluit	Datum aanvraag	: 2 maart 2017
accreditatie wo-bachelor	Graad opleiding	: Bachelor of Science
Economie en Beleid van de	Variant opleiding	: voltijd
Wageningen University	Locatie opleiding	: Wageningen
(005470)	Datum goedkeuren	
uw kenmerk	panel	: 12 september 2016
1705645MK	Datum locatiebezoek	: 7 oktober 2016
ons kenmerk	Datum visitatierapport	: 5 december 2016
NVAO/20171245/AH	Instellingstoets kwaliteitszorg	: ja, positief besluit van 2 juli 2012
bijlagen		

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Beoordelingskader

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 led to the assessment of the quality of the Bachelor programme Economics and Governance of the Wageningen University, which has been assessed according to the NVAO Assessment Framework.

The panel noted that the programme management acted upon the recommendations, made during the previous assessment in 2009. The programme management, among others, tailored the intended learning outcomes more clearly to the Economics and Governance programme profile, achieved more coherence in the curriculum, stipulated the Bachelor thesis requirements and improved the study success rates.

Pagina 2 van 6 The programme's name, Bachelor Economics and Governance, matches its contents and corresponds to the names of similar programmes.

The panel approves of the objectives of the programme, which testify to an Economics programme with special emphasis on activities and sectors for which Governance issues are important, such as agriculture, natural resources exploitation, environment-oriented activities and economic development. In this sense, the programme has its own profile, being distinct from other Economics programmes in the Netherlands. The panel agrees with the programme management to train students primarily to enter Economics Master programmes and not so much to enter Governance Master programmes. Having compared the objectives of the programme to the Subject-Specific Reference Framework for Economics programmes, the panel has ascertained the programme to meet the requirements of this Framework. The panel recommends to bring the programme closer to the Wageningen University's international profile, thereby strengthening the programme character and attracting more students. The intended learning outcomes of the programme match the programme objectives, adequately specifying the domain-specific knowledge and skills, research skills and general academic knowledge and skills to be acquired, and meet the Bachelor level requirements. In the position and involvement of the External Advisory Board, the panel sees an effective means to ensure the programme to meet the professional field requirements and to remain up-to-date.

The admission requirements and admission procedures of the programme are regarded by the panel to be appropriate. The panel recommends, however, to emphasize in the information to prospective students this programme to be an Economics programme with elements of Governance and not a programme with Economics and Governance on an equal footing.

The intended learning outcomes are met in the curriculum. The panel approves of the curriculum structure with a substantial common part of compulsory courses, addressing fundamental subjects in Economics and Governance, the Methodology courses and the choice for the students to opt either for the Economics profile or the Governance profile. In addition, the panel finds the course contents to be very appropriate. The panel advises to consider raising the number of specializations to include, for instance, Agriculture, Environment and Food Safety in order to broaden the range of choices for the students and to attract more students and to benefit from the internationally acclaimed qualities of Wageningen University. The panel noted that the ordering of especially the methods courses was not always very logical. Although the panel sympathizes with the fact that it is difficult to meet all constraints (internal as well as externally imposed), it would be advisable to periodically assess whether the order of the curriculum can be re-optimized.

The panel advises to consider to change the programme to a fully English-taught programme, adding to the international character and attractiveness of the programme and making it accessible for foreign students.

The programme management has succeeded in implementing the educational principle of small-scale, intensive teaching, as may be deduced from the 9 : 1 student-teacher ratio. The teaching methods, such as tutorials, practical training, group learning and excursions match this principle. The study load for the students is adequate, as the students with whom the panel met expressed. The information provision and study guidance for the students are up to standard, the study advisor playing a pivotal role in the study guidance. The panel is

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The panel regards the lecturers in the programme to be experts in their fields and to possess adequate educational capacities, as may be deduced from the sizeable proportion of lecturers with BKO-certificates or equivalent qualifications. The lecturers present their research in the classes.

The panel regards the rules and regulations for examinations and assessments to be appropriate, as these meet the Wageningen University assessment policy and are adequate for ensuring the quality, validity and reliability of examinations. This may be derived from the use of specification grids to ensure the validity, the assessment strategy in the courses for the selection and combination of examination methods and the appointment of skilled examiners. The responsibilities and tasks of the Examination Board are adequate, the Board monitoring examination and assessment procedures, overseeing the quality of examinations, appointing examiners and reviewing the Bachelor theses. The supervision and assessment of the Bachelor thesis are well-organized. The panel, however, advises to place the Bachelor thesis at the end of the curriculum, so the students may benefit from all prior courses in their thesis project. In addition, the panel feels the rubrics scoring forms to assess the thesis may be used more rigorously.

The panel is positive about the study success rates of this programme, as these are in line with the target figures as agreed upon by Wageningen University and the Dutch Ministry of Education.

Students completing the programme are prepared for Economics Master programmes. The panel did, however, notice the need for additional mathematics and theoretical economics courses to allow the students to qualify for Economics Master programmes, outside of Wageningen University. Therefore, the panel advises to strengthen the mathematics and statistics courses in the curriculum and to tailor these courses to the programme requirements.

The panel studied the examinations of the courses and found these to be very appropriate, testifying to the level achieved by the students in these courses.

At first, the panel studied 15 theses of students, who graduated in the last two years. Two of these theses were assessed by the panel to be unsatisfactory. Thereupon, the panel studied six additional theses of graduates of the last two years, primarily in the lower grade bracket. The panel concluded all of these theses to be at least satisfactory. As a consequence, the panel regards the two theses, assessed as unsatisfactory as outliers, being not representative for the quality and level of the Bachelor theses in general. A number of theses, the panel studied, were assessed by the panel to be good literature studies, with numerous references to scientific literature, solid analyses and sound policy recommendations. As a further elaboration of the theses' subjects and scope, the panel recommends to promote students applying mathematical and statistical methods in the theses.

The panel assesses the Bachelor programme Economics and Governance of Wageningen University to be satisfactory and recommends NVAO to grant re-accreditation to this programme.

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Ingevolge het bepaalde in artikel 5a.10, derde lid, van de WHW heeft de NVAO het college van bestuur van de Wageningen University te Wageningen in de gelegenheid gesteld zijn zienswijze op het voornemen tot besluit van 18 april 2017 naar voren te brengen. Van deze gelegenheid heeft het college van bestuur geen gebruik gemaakt.

De NVAO besluit accreditatie te verlenen aan de wo-bachelor Economie en Beleid (180 EC; variant: voltijd; locatie: Wageningen) van de Wageningen University te Wageningen. De NVAO beoordeelt de kwaliteit van de opleiding als voldoende.

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

Den Haag, 31 mei 2017

De NVAO
Voor deze:

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized loop at the top, followed by a horizontal line, and a vertical line extending downwards from the center of the horizontal line.

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	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) Honorary 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;
- Prof. dr. D.P. van Soest, (lid) Professor of Environmental Economics, Academic Director Tilburg Sustainability Center, Tilburg University;
- S.M. van den Hoek, (student-lid) student Bachelor programme Tax Economics, University of Amsterdam.

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