

Besluit **Besluit strekkende tot het verlenen van accreditatie aan de opleiding wo-bachelor Plantenwetenschappen van Wageningen Universiteit**

Gegevens

datum	Naam instelling	:	Wageningen Universiteit
28 juni 2013	Naam opleiding	:	wo-bachelor Plantenwetenschappen (180 ECTS)
onderwerp	Datum aanvraag	:	11 december 2012
Besluit accreditatie wo-bachelor	Variant opleiding	:	voltijd
Plantenwetenschappen van	Afstudeerrichtingen	:	Plant Genomics and Health Plant Production and Ecology
Wageningen Universiteit	Locatie opleiding	:	Wageningen
(001168)	Datum goedkeuren	:	
uw kenmerk	panel	:	1 februari 2014
12/31439	Datum locatiebezoeken	:	18 en 19 april 2012
ons kenmerk	Datum visitatierapport	:	26 oktober 2012
NVAO/ 20132134/SL	Instellingstoets kwaliteitszorg	:	positief besluit 2 juli 2012
bijlagen			

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Aanvullende informatie

De NVAO heeft bij brief van 6 maart 2013 de instelling een nieuwe samenvatting van het visitatierapport gevraagd. Bij brief van 1 mei 2013 heeft de NVAO deze ontvangen.

Beoordelingskader

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

Bevindingen

De NVAO stelt vast dat in het visitatierapport en de nieuwe samenvatting deugdelijk en kenbaar is gemotiveerd op welke gronden het panel de kwaliteit van de opleiding goed heeft bevonden. Het visitatierapport geeft de bevindingen en overwegingen weer van het panel over de bacheloropleiding Plantenwetenschappen en de masteropleidingen Plant Sciences, Organic Agriculture en Plant Biotechnology van Wageningen Universiteit. Het panel heeft de vier opleidingen gezamenlijk beoordeeld.

Inlichtingen

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

Standard 1: Intended Learning Outcomes

The bachelor programme in Plant Sciences is the only academic programme in the Netherlands that focuses specifically on plants. It combines fundamental knowledge on plant (molecular) biology, physiology, genetics and (agro-)ecology with the application of this knowledge for improved food production, the development of plant-based bio energy and bio resources, and a green environment. The bachelor programme in Plant Sciences is in general a very strong programme. The programme management has clear ideas on the objectives and aims and they are of high quality, but the programme would benefit from an improved description of these objectives.

The committee is positive regarding the intended learning outcomes. The committee thinks that the intended learning outcomes are clear and without a doubt produce graduates in Plant Sciences at the bachelor level. The bachelor programme at present is not aimed to deliver students to the working field. The committee understands that prospective employers are not (yet) looking for bachelor graduates. Nevertheless, it advises the programme to describe more strongly the bachelor profile, making it distinguishable without necessarily including a master programme. The committee feels this does not require major changes in the programme, since it already focuses on the students' future careers.

Standard 2: Teaching-Learning Environment

The curriculum is solid and provides students with high quality knowledge and skills. The individual programmes chosen by students are coherent, but due to the large amount of free choices, the programmes as a whole cannot be assessed on coherency. The fact that individual students follow programmes that are coherent has to do with the excellent support provided by the study advisers who are part of the scientific staff.

Multiple disciplines are successfully integrated in the programme. The committee specifically points out the integrative courses at the end of each bachelor year. Teaching methods are well balanced within and between courses. Many courses include a certain amount of attention to feedback and reflection. Lecturers combine education and research and meet regularly to discuss research developments in their field. The programme committee organizes discussion sessions with lecturers involved in sets of related courses to adjust and align their content, and to discuss options for incorporating new developments and theories into their courses. The course content is also regularly related to the professional practice. The committee was impressed by the collaboration between management, staff, students and programme committees in their focus to improve the programmes.

The previous assessment committee indicated strong points, which are still considered assets of the programme. Weak points have been addressed since the previous assessment, such as improving the structure and cohesion of the programme and the connection between courses. The programme was transformed from 'tradition-based' to 'future-proof'. Research qualities of the staff are impressive, as are the student-staff ratios. Also, the staff is involved in continuously improving their didactical skills. Student support and facilities are good. Especially the before mentioned support by the study advisers is a valuable asset to the programmes. Without this support it would be impossible to run these programmes. The committee thinks that the number of enrolling students could and should increase. Clear communication towards prospective students regarding the objectives of the programme and the job opportunities afterwards should be part of the strategy. Study load is high, but acceptable.

The committee is very positive with regard to the initiatives Wageningen University is currently implementing in the bachelor and master programmes. The Examining Boards are in the process of strengthening their role in ensuring the quality of assessment and seem committed to formalizing the assessment system. The secretaries of the four committees have a key role in the communication between programme management and Examining Board. Each programme at Wageningen University standardized the filling in of free choice credits. The programme is on schedule to implement the new initiatives. The use of course guides makes the assessment procedures very clear and transparent, and they are very useful to the students. The committee gained a very positive impression about the quality of the courses, including the assessments. Different assessment strategies are used within and between courses. The committee especially values the use of the rubric for the thesis. The committee encourages the programme management to use the rubric conscientiously, as in other programmes it appears to have had a positive effect on the verification of the grades. The programme management is currently working on an overview of assessments at the programme level. Although formalization of the assessment strategy is still in progress, the committee is convinced that it will be a good strategy.

The committee could only assess the written report and not the other assessment criteria, still it agreed with the grades given to the theses. Overall, the committee was impressed by the quality of the assessment of the bachelor theses. It was clear to the committee that the thesis projects are executed in excellent research surroundings. The committee did notice that only a few thesis assessment forms included written feedback and suggests this should be stimulated. It would be beneficial to the students to equalize the outlines of the thesis projects. Similar to other Wageningen bachelor programmes, students often start with master programme courses before graduating from the bachelor programme. This leads to a study delay for the bachelor programme, which should disappear when the bachelor-before-master requirements are introduced. Employers are not interested in academic bachelor graduates and bachelor graduates, in general, are not interested in finding a job after graduation. This leads to all students continuing with a master programme at Wageningen University, in most cases the master programme in Plant Sciences. Dropout rates are overall low and the committee appreciates the attention given to further improve these numbers.

Aanbevelingen

De NVAO onderschrijft de aanbevelingen van het panel, met name om

- een krachtiger beschrijving van het profiel op te stellen;
- bij het beoordelen van afstudeerthesen consequent de rubrics te gebruiken en studenten schriftelijke feedback te geven;
- voorlichting aan aspirant studenten omtrent de doelen van de opleiding en de baankansen na afloop tot onderdeel van de strategie te maken;
- de outline van afstudeerprojecten enigermate gelijk te trekken.

Ingevolge het bepaalde in artikel 5a.10, tweede lid, van de WHW heeft de NVAO het college van bestuur van de Wageningen Universiteit te Wageningen in de gelegenheid gesteld zijn zienswijze op het voornemen tot besluit van 27 mei 2013 naar voren te brengen. Bij e-mail van 12 juni 2013 heeft de instelling gereageerd op het voornemen tot besluit. Dit heeft geleid tot aanvulling van bijlage 2 in het definitieve besluit.

De NVAO besluit accreditatie te verlenen aan de wo-bachelor Plantenwetenschappen (180 ECTS; variant: voltijd; locatie: Wageningen) van Wageningen Universiteit te Wageningen. De opleiding kent de volgende afstudeerrichtingen: Plant Genomics and Health; Plant Production and Ecology. De NVAO beoordeelt de kwaliteit van de opleiding als goed.

Dit besluit treedt in werking op 1 januari 2014 en is van kracht tot en met 31 december 2019.

Den Haag, 28 juni 2013

Nederlands-Vlaamse Accreditatieorganisatie

SG


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.

Onderwerp	Standaard	Beoordeling door het panel
		<i>voltijd</i>
1. Beoogde eindkwalificaties	De beoogde eindkwalificaties van de opleiding zijn wat betreft inhoud, niveau en oriëntatie geconcretiseerd en voldoen aan internationale eisen	G
2. Onderwijsleeromgeving	Het programma, het personeel en de opleidingsspecifieke voorzieningen maken het voor de instromende studenten mogelijk de beoogde eindkwalificaties te realiseren	G
3. Toetsing en gerealiseerde eindkwalificaties	De opleiding beschikt over een adequaat systeem van toetsing en toont aan dat de beoogde eindkwalificaties worden gerealiseerd	G
Eindoordeel		G

De standaarden krijgen het oordeel onvoldoende (O), voldoende (V), goed (G) of excellent (E). Het eindoordeel over de opleiding als geheel wordt op dezelfde schaal gegeven.

Docent-student ratio	1 : 5.1
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Kwalificatie docenten	91% PhD 9% Wo-Ma
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Studielast	42 uur per week
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Contacturen

jaar	aantal in dat jaar	% van 1680
1	825	49
2	746	44
3	642	38

Rendement

cohort	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
omvang bij start	11	6	17	14	18	20	23	29
herinschrijvingen na 1 jaar	10	4	14	12	16	18	20	
diploma na 3 jaar (%)	0	25	7	0	38			
diploma na 4 jaar (%)	20	50	36	33				
diploma na 5 jaar (%)	30	75	64					
diploma na 6 jaar (%)	30	100						
diploma na 7 jaar (%)	90							
uitval 1 oktober 2010 (%)	10	0	7	25	0	11		

- Prof. F. Zwarts (chair), professor at University of Groningen and professor and manager at University Campus Fryslân;
- R.L. Prenen, MSc, independent educational adviser;
- Dr. G. Lieblein, associate professor at the Department of Plant and Environmental Sciences, Norwegian University of Life Sciences, Norway;
- Prof. H. Stützel, professor in Vegetable Systems Modelling at the Institute of Biological Production Systems, Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz University, Hannover, Germany;
- Prof. E. Van Damme, professor at the Department of Molecular Biotechnology, Ghent University, Belgium;
- Prof. M. De Proft, full professor at the Faculty of Bioscience Engineering, Catholic University Leuven, Belgium;
- Mr. Karl Agius, MSc, graduated in 2012 as master at the University of Malta.

Het panel werd ondersteund door dr. M.J.V. Van Bogaert, secretaris (gecertificeerd).