

Besluit

Besluit strekkende tot het verlenen van accreditatie aan de opleiding wo-bachelor Biologie van de Wageningen University

Gegevens

datum	Naam instelling	:	Wageningen University
31 augustus 2016	Naam opleiding	:	wo-bachelor Biologie (180 EC)
onderwerp	Datum aanvraag	:	29 maart 2016
Besluit	Variant opleiding	:	voltijd
accreditatie wo-bachelor	Afstudeerrichtingen	:	Cell and Molecular Biology
Biologie van de Wageningen			Organismal and Developmental Biology
University			Human and Animal Health Biology
(004630)			Ecology and Biodiversity
ons kenmerk	Locatie opleiding	:	Wageningen
NVAO/20161813/LL	Datum goedkeuren panel	:	22 juni 2015
bijlagen	Datum locatiebezoeken	:	17 en 18 september 2015
2	Datum visitatierapport	:	4 december 2015
	Instellingstoets kwaliteitszorg	:	ja, positief besluit van 2 juli 2012

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 goed heeft bevonden.

Advies van het visitatiepanel

Bachelor's programme Biology

The bachelor's programme Biology is a broadly oriented programme in biology, offering major specialisations in four fields: Cell & Molecular Biology, Organismal & Developmental Biology, Human & Animal Health Biology and Ecology & Biodiversity.

The panel has established that the intended learning outcomes of the bachelor's programme are in line with (inter)national requirements. The programme shows a clear multidisciplinary and broad profile within the field of the life sciences and has started to reflect on students' engagement with biology as the study of the complete integrated system

Pagina 2 van 4 of biological entities. The panel would welcome a future-directed view on the outcomes, recognizing the central role of understanding the living system within the multi/interdisciplinary area of the life sciences. The panel has identified a strong potential within the programme to develop a distinct profile combining fundamental and applied science.

The curriculum of the programme comprises four elements: a common part (102 EC), a major (30 EC), optional courses (36 EC), and the bachelor thesis (12 EC). The common part of the programme aims at providing students with the basic concepts of biology on a molecular, cellular, organismal, population and ecosystem level. Subsequently, students choose one of four majors meant to deepen their biological knowledge. For the optional courses, students can pick a set of free courses, or follow a minor. The bachelor thesis is a short predefined and structured research project carried out at one of the chair groups in the field of biology.

The panel has established that the bachelor's programme curriculum is well composed in the sense that it allows students to get a good grasp on the full breadth of biology and that it offers them a chance to study one of four themes more in-depth. Through its attention for practicals, the programme also succeeds in training its students in (research) skills, for example needed for the bachelor research project – although extra training in keeping up a lab journal would be preferable.

The panel is pleased with the used mix of teaching methods, performed in a way doing justice to the programme's ambition to offer small scale education. The teaching staff is regularly informed about new trends and innovations in teaching, and modern techniques such as streaming and recording lectures are used to the benefit of students. The programme has some well-qualified study advisors at its disposal, and has taken a number of measures to increase its success rates.

The programme is executed by a teaching staff with a very good to excellent research reputation, and the student-staff ratio is quite favourable. This allows the programme to hold on to small scale teaching methods, even with large cohorts of students. The panel encourages the management to continue their efforts to increase the number of lecturers holding a (senior) teaching qualification, which is still rather low. On the other hand, the panel is convinced that didactic aspects of education are taken seriously. The programme has high quality lab facilities at its disposal for education purposes.

The panel judges positively not only on the quality of the programme's assessment system, but also about the many efforts it has developed to implement new assessment techniques and to increase and control the overall quality of assessment. The involvement of peer review committees is a time-consuming but promising initiative that deserves the support necessary to maximize efficiency and effect. The quality of assessment and achieved learning outcomes is well safeguarded, not only by a committed Board of Examiners, but also by a number of initiatives such as the ad hoc assessment committee and the team of bachelor thesis evaluators.

Based on the quality of their bachelor theses and their performance at master's level, the panel concludes that graduates of the *bachelor's programme* have demonstrated a good overall level of achieved learning outcomes. All selected theses were adequately graded.

Pagina 3 van 4 The panel assesses the standards from the *Assessment framework for limited programme assessments* in the following way:

Bachelor's programme Biology

Standard 1: Intended learning outcomes	satisfactory
Standard 2: Teaching-learning environment	good
Standard 3: Assessment	good
Standard 4: Achieved learning outcomes	good
General conclusion	good

Besluit

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 27 juni 2016 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 Biologie (180 EC; variant: voltijd; locatie: Wageningen) van de Wageningen University te Wageningen.

De opleiding kent de volgende afstudeerrichtingen: Cell and Molecular Biology, Organismal and Developmental Biology, Human and Animal Health Biology en Ecology and Biodiversity.

De NVAO beoordeelt de kwaliteit van de opleiding als goed.

Dit besluit treedt in werking op 31 augustus 2016 en is van kracht tot en met 30 augustus 2022.

Den Haag, 31 augustus 2016

De NVAO
Voor deze:


Dr. A.H. Flierman
(voorzitter)

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.	goed
3. Toetsing	De opleiding beschikt over een adequaat systeem van toetsing.	goed
4. Gerealiseerde eindkwalificaties	De opleiding toont aan dat de beoogde eindkwalificaties worden gerealiseerd.	goed
Eindoordeel		goed

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

Bijlage 2: panelsamenstelling

- Prof. dr. Jan Kijne (chair), Professor emeritus of BioScience, Leiden University;
- Prof. dr. Paul Hooykaas (member), Professor of Molecular Genetics, Leiden University;
- Prof. dr. Herman Verhoef (member), Professor emeritus of Soil Ecology, VU University Amsterdam;
- Prof. dr. Joost Teixeira de Mattos (member), Professor of Quantitative Microbial Physiology, University of Amsterdam;
- Pieter Munster MSc. (student member), policy officer at Leiden University and graduate of the master's programme Cancer, Genomics & Developmental Biology, Utrecht.

Het panel werd ondersteund door dr. Kees-Jan van Klaveren, secretaris (gecertificeerd).