

Besluit **Besluit strekkende tot het verlenen van accreditatie aan de opleiding wo-master Aquaculture and Marine Resource Management van de Wageningen University**

Gegevens

datum	Naam instelling	:	Wageningen University
30 september 2016	Naam opleiding	:	wo-master Aquaculture and Marine Resource Management (120 EC)
onderwerp	Datum aanvraag	:	10 augustus 2016
Besluit	Graad opleiding	:	Master of Science
accreditatie wo-master	Variant opleiding	:	voltijd
Aquaculture and Marine	Afstudeerrichtingen	:	Aquaculture, Marine Resource and Ecology, Marine Governance
Resource	Locatie opleiding	:	Wageningen
Management van de	Datum goedkeuren	:	
Wageningen University	panel	:	29 februari 2016
(005020)	Datum locatiebezoek	:	9 en 10 mei 2016
ons kenmerk	Datum visitatierapport	:	26 juni 2016
NVAO/20162206/LL	2 Instellingstoets kwaliteitszorg	:	ja, positief besluit van 2 juli 2012
bijlagen			

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.

The master's programme Aquaculture and Marine Resource Management aims to train academic professionals in the field of the sustainable use, conservation and restoration of marine and aquatic ecosystems and resources. Compared to its predecessor, the Aquaculture and Fisheries programme (assessed in 2010), the current programme is much broader, as it combines ecological, technological, socio-economic and governance perspectives.

Pagina 2 van 6 The panel has established that the intended learning outcomes of the master's programme match the international requirements for an academic programme at the master's level. While the intended learning outcomes reflect the different perspectives on the field, the panel feels that the goal of interdisciplinarity could be given more emphasis in order to do justice to the integrated profile of the programme. The panel appreciates that the programme has submitted the intended learning outcomes to academic peers and representatives of the professional field. It does, however, conclude that the advisory board that consists of potential employers of graduates could be used to much greater effect to enhance the programme. The panel advises the programme to formalise its relations with the professional field by way of a structural feedback mechanism between the programme and the advisory board which is a powerful resource for academics and students alike.

The two-years master's programme is taught in the English language and starts with three compulsory common courses (18 EC in total) that introduce students to the latest developments in the field and familiarise them with the integration of beta and gamma perspectives on aquaculture and marine resource management. After this common phase, students specialise in (1) Aquaculture, (2) Marine Resources and Ecology, or (3) Marine Governance. The first two specialisations are primarily beta-oriented, while the third is essentially gamma-oriented. Besides following specialisation courses, first-year students also choose electives and follow an academic consultancy training. The second year of the programme consists of an academic internship or minor thesis (24 EC) and a major thesis project (36 EC) that is conducted in one of the chair groups that contribute to the programme. Individual study paths throughout the course are discussed with the study advisor and submitted to the Board of Examiners for approval. This model was noted as a particularly point of strength in the programme as it provides each student with bespoke advice on which skills they need to achieve the intended learning outcomes.

The panel concludes that the content of the curriculum is driven by the marine research lines of the Wageningen chair groups. Therefore, the programme is not exhaustive: students are made aware of the different systems in existence (land-based aquaculture, marine-based aquaculture, etc.), but do not necessarily come into contact with all of them during the programme. The panel received evidence that led to the conclusion that this approach ensures that the research strengths of the chair groups are optimally exploited. Students are sufficiently prepared to independently fill in any remaining knowledge gaps, for example through the choice of their internship.

The panel notes that the curriculum is regularly adapted to meet the demands of students, ongoing research of staff and trends in the domain at large. Recent and foreseen changes include the introduction of the new common course Trends in Aquaculture and a restructuring of the Marine Governance specialisation, which was taken by fewer students than the other two specialisations. The panel is positive about these changes, which were partly motivated by student feedback and which testify to the on-going dynamic and flexible nature of the programme. With respect to the intention to increase the 'marine' character in the currently rather generic Marine Governance specialisation, the panel warns against overspecialisation. Career-wise, students will benefit from being exposed to case studies from other fields. To give the specialisation a more rounded social sciences profile, the panel suggests involving sociologists (and possibly also political scientists, anthropologists and geographers) from the Wageningen chair groups alongside the economists and environmental scientists that currently contribute to the specialisation. The panel applauds the role of the Programme Committee that monitors the quality of the programme and has

Pagina 3 van 6 instigated recent curriculum changes. This element of internal quality insurance is clearly taken seriously, with evidence of active and positive reaction to suggestions and requests for modifications to the programme.

The teaching methods that are used are suitable and sufficiently diverse. Furthermore, they reflect the small-scale nature of the programme. The panel is positive about the use of so-called thesis circles in some thesis tracks, which allow students to peer review each other's work on the final research project. The panel would welcome the introduction of thesis circles in all (seven) thesis tracks.

Staff members from at least five different Wageningen chair groups are involved in the programme. The academic quality of the staff is very good. The panel notes that several staff members are internationally leading in their fields. In terms of didactics, the panel concludes that steps have been taken to increase the (currently rather low) number of staff members with a teaching qualification (Basiskwalificatie Onderwijs, BKO). BKO-training is mandatory for tenure-trackers and other junior staff. According to the panel, senior staff members with ample teaching experience could also benefit from didactic training, as long as its content is sufficiently challenging. The student-staff ratio of the programme (6:1) is favourably low compared to most other academic institutions in Europe.

The panel is satisfied with the quality of the programme's assessment system and the role of the Board of Examiners, but concludes that safeguarding the consistency of assessment across the different chair groups that contribute to the programme is a point that requires attention. While assessing a sample of recently completed theses, the panel came across considerable variations in the level of feedback that was provided to students, and it also noticed that not all chair groups adhere to the weighting of different thesis components that is prescribed by the Board of Examiners. Furthermore, the panel did not always agree with the grade that was given, which it sometimes considered too high and sometimes too low. Consistency issues aside, the panel concluded that all sample theses were of at least sufficient academic quality. Some of the best theses were even of a publishable standard. The panel has also established that most graduates find jobs quickly after graduation, both in and outside of academia. While the Dutch labour market is currently rather tight, international career prospects are favourable and many of the graduates from this programme find careers overseas.

Aanbevelingen

De NVAO onderschrijft de aanbevelingen van het panel.

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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 22 augustus 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-master Aquaculture and Marine Resource Management (120 EC; variant: voltijd; locatie: Wageningen) van de Wageningen University te Wageningen. De opleiding kent de volgende afstudeerrichtingen: Aquaculture, Marine Resource and Ecology, Marine Governance. De NVAO beoordeelt de kwaliteit van de opleiding als voldoende.

Dit besluit treedt in werking op 30 september 2016 en is van kracht tot en met 29 september 2022.

Den Haag, 30 september 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.	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.

- Prof. Michel Kaiser, (voorzitter) professor of Marine Conservation Ecology at Bangor University, United Kingdom;
- Prof. Maarten Bavinck, (lid) associate professor in the Department of Geography, Planning and International Development Studies (GPIO) of the University of Amsterdam and professor of Coastal Resource Governance at the Norwegian College of Fishery Science, University of Tromsø, Norway;
- Prof. Svein Jentoft, (lid) professor at Norwegian College of Fisheries Science, University of Tromsø, Norway;
- Prof. Marco Saroglia, (lid) professor emeritus at the University of Insubria in Varese, Italy;
- Prof. Patrick Sorgeloos, (lid) professor emeritus at Ghent University, Belgium;
- Eldin Honingh, (student-lid) student of the master's programme Marine Sciences at Utrecht University, the Netherlands.

Het panel werd ondersteund door dr. Floor Meijer, secretaris (gecertificeerd).