

Besluit

Besluit strekkende tot het verlenen van accreditatie aan de opleiding wo-master Forest and Nature Conservation van Wageningen Universiteit

Gegevens

datum	Naam instelling	: Wageningen Universiteit
28 juni 2013	Naam opleiding	: wo-master Forest and Nature Conservation (120 ECTS)
onderwerp	Datum aanvraag	: 11 december 2012
Besluit	Variant opleiding	: voltijd
accreditatie wo-master	Afstudeerrichtingen	: Ecology
Forest and Nature Conservation		Management
van Wageningen Universiteit		Policy and Society
(001179)	Locatie opleiding	: Wageningen
uw kenmerk	Datum goedkeuren	
12/31439	panel	: 1 februari 2012
ons kenmerk	Datum locatiebezoeken	: 10 en 11 april 2012
NVAO/20132134/SL	Datum visitatierapport	: 6 november 2012
bijlagen	Instellingstoets kwaliteitszorg	: positief besluit 2 juli 2012

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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 Bos- en Natuurbeheer en masteropleiding Forest and Nature Conservation van Wageningen Universiteit. Het panel heeft beide opleidingen gezamenlijk beoordeeld.

Inlichtingen

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

Standard 1: Intended Learning Outcomes

Forest and Nature Conservation deals with the conservation, management, and sustainable use of forest and other (semi-)natural areas, for human individual and general well-being.

The programme focuses on the theories related to the ecology and biology of natural and semi-natural ecosystems and populations, and the social and political forces that guide decision-making in natural resources use and management.

The master programme has an international academic and scientific setting. Its aim is that students acquire a broad understanding of the characteristics and functioning of ecosystems and/or social systems. There are three specializations in the master programme: Ecology, Management, and Policy and Society. The specializations are thesis-oriented, to prepare students for their role as academics in a professional environment or in a PhD programme.

The committee is impressed with the objectives and intended learning outcomes. With respect to doing research, the learning outcomes are quite ambitious. A minor remark was made that although the Dublin descriptors indicate that the bachelor and master programme differ in level, the intended learning outcomes seem quite similar. The committee understands this is partly because both programmes refer to the same discipline of Forest and Nature Conservation, and because the bachelor programme is designed as a preparation for the master programme. Overall, the committee is of the opinion that the profile and objectives are clear and meet international standards.

The committee agrees with the programme management that the expertise in the field of conservation in a densely populated area like the Dutch context is a big asset of the programmes. Along with focussing on the specific Dutch situation, the programme also has an international perspective, in the subtropics, where the utilization of resources is an important subject. The committee appreciates that the development towards a resources perspective is also recognized and used in the programme, although the name suggests a narrower view on the subject.

Standard 2: Teaching-Learning Environment

The committee established that the curriculum and the courses are designed to achieve the intended learning outcomes and are well structured. The programme is exploring the possibility of including a second compulsory integrative course to strengthen the multidisciplinary character of the programme. The committee is in favour of this change. The committee appreciates that the master programme participates in the Erasmus Mundus European Forestry programme. It believes that expanding to a global level would be appropriate, also given the experience in tropical and subtropical areas.

The high quality of the staff is beyond any doubt, both in research and in education. During the interviews lecturers displayed their involvement in the programme and a high level of awareness of the educational aspects.

The committee assessed the teaching methods used and concluded that an appropriate mix is employed. The recommendations of the previous assessment panel have been taken seriously and have been acted upon. The adjustments that were made improved the structure and coherence of the programme. The role of the study adviser is very important and the committee established that the student support is well-organized. Study load is good. Each year, around 60 students enter the programme, with higher numbers in 2009 and 2010. About one-third is of international origin, one-third has followed the bachelor programme in Forest and Nature Conservation, and one-third comes from other Dutch bachelor's programmes.

Pagina 3 van 7 The admission procedure works well, but for international students from certain countries, it had to be tightened to make sure that all students who enrol have sufficient academic skills and communicate adequately in English, even if they passed the formal criteria of the admission committee. Graduates of the master programme perform well, both in research and in governmental and non-profit organizations.

Standard 3: Assessment and achieved learning outcomes

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. Having only four Examining Boards is stimulating the consistency and equality of the procedures, at the same time these four Examining Boards are responsible for a total of 49 programmes. This might lead to a certain distance from the programmes, making it difficult for the Examining Boards to really be in control at the programme level.

The assessment strategies of the different courses are good, and there is sufficient variation in the examination methods. The success rates of master students match the Wageningen average. Overall, the committee was impressed by the level of the theses. The committee appreciated how its structure resembled that of a scientific article, due to the specific attention paid to the process of conducting research. The additional format for thesis assessment that made use of extensive written feedback was applauded by the committee as a best practice.

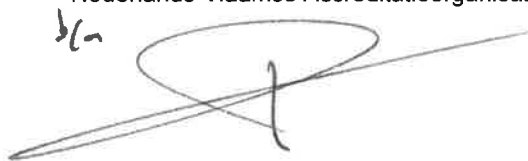
Ingevolge het bepaalde in artikel 5a.10, tweede lid, van de WHW heeft de NVAO het college van bestuur van de Wageningen Universiteit te Wageningen in de gelegenheid gesteld zijn zienswijze op het voornemen tot besluit van 27 mei 2013 naar voren te brengen. Bij e-mail van 12 juni 2013 heeft de instelling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

Op grond van het voorgaande besluit de NVAO accreditatie te verlenen aan de wo-master Forest and Nature Conservation (120 ECTS; variant: voltijd; locatie: Wageningen) van Wageningen Universiteit te Wageningen. De opleiding kent de volgende afstudeerrichtingen: Ecology; Management; Policy and Society. 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

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'A' and 'D' intertwined, with a horizontal line extending to the right. To the left of the signature, there is a small handwritten mark that looks like 'b/c'.

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 : 7.6
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Kwalificatie docenten	94% PhD 6% wo-ma
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Studielast	42 uur per week
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Contacturen

jaar	aantal in dat jaar	% van 1680
1	686	41
2	30	1.8

Rendement

cohort	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
omvang bij start	33	58	54	66	58	58	68	88
diploma na 2 jaar (%)	45	55	52	59	60	59		
diploma na 3 jaar (%)	79	84	78	91	88			
diploma na 4 jaar (%)	94	90	91	97				
diploma na 5 jaar (%)	97	91	91					
uitval 1 oktober 2010 (%)	0	7	7	2	5	5	1	

- Prof. F. Zwarts (chair), professor at University of Groningen and professor and manager at University Campus Fryslân;
- R.L. Prenen, MSc., independent educational adviser;
- Prof. P.J. Driessen, professor of Environmental Studies, Utrecht University;
- Prof. P. Klinkhamer, professor in Plant Ecology and Phytochemistry at the Institute of Biology Leiden, Leiden University;
- Prof. T. Lundmark, professor in Forest Management at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Umeå, Sweden;
- T. De Mil, MSc, recently graduated the master programme in Bioscience Engineering: Forest and Nature Management at Ghent University, Belgium.

Het panel werd ondersteund door M. Maarleveld, MSc, secretaris (gecertificeerd).