nvao
nederlands - vlaamse accreditatieorganisatie

Besluit

Besluit strekkende tot het verlenen van accreditatie aan de opleiding wo-master Plant Sciences van Wageningen Universiteit

datum
28 juni 2013
onderwerp
Besluit accreditatie wo-master Plant Sciences van Wageningen Universiteit (001188)
uw kenmerk
12/31439
ons kenmerk
NVAO/20132134/SL
bijlagen
3

Gegevens

Naam instelling	:	Wageningen Universiteit
Naam opleiding	:	wo-master Plant Sciences (120 ECTS)
Datum aanvraag	:	11 december 2012
Variant opleiding	:	voltijd
Afstudeerrichtingen	:	Crop Science Greenhouse Horticulture Natural Resource Management Plant Breeding and Genetic Resources Plant Pathology and Entomology
Locatie opleiding	:	Wageningen
Datum goedkeuren panel	:	1 februari 2012
Datum locatiebezoeken	:	18 en 19 april 2012
Datum visitatierapport	:	26 oktober 2012
Instellingstoets kwaliteitszorg	:	positief besluit 2 juli 2012

Aanvullende informatie

De NVAO heeft bij brief van 6 maart 2013 de instelling een nieuwe samenvatting van het visitatierapport. 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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Advies van het visitatiepanel

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

Standard 1: Intended Learning Outcomes

The master programme in Plant Sciences focuses on the basic disciplines of plant physiology, genetics, ecology and molecular biology as well as on the integration of these disciplines to provide healthy plants in a safe environment for food and non-food applications. The study of food production systems at farm, regional and higher levels is also part of the programme. It specifically focuses on the technological aspects of crop production, the application of scientific knowledge to develop breeding tools, plant growth models or cropping systems, with additional focus on the essential environmental, quality, health, socio-economic and logistic aspects.

Students specialize in one of five specific areas to deepen their insights, skills and understanding and learn to apply knowledge in an integrated way. The master 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. Although general, they clearly lead to graduates at the intended academic level and orientation. The relation with the professional field is good. Because of the uniqueness of the programme and the sector's strong need for graduates, especially in plant breeding, horticulture and crop modelling, professionals in the domain interact frequently with members of the programme committee and teaching staff. Students that graduate from the master programme are well prepared to enter the labour market in the committee's view.

Standard 2: Teaching-Learning Environment

The committee has studied the various aspects of the teaching and learning environment. The committee established that each of the five specializations is coherent on its own and well thought out, but it is hardly possible to identify one coherent programme. To the committee this is not considered a problem, since the specializations were deliberately chosen and strongly link to the labour market. 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.

Research based learning characterizes the educational profile of the curriculum. The curriculum is solid and provides students with high quality knowledge and skills. The programme aims at integrating multiple disciplines and it does this rather successfully according to the committee.

Many courses are organised by multiple Chair Groups and have many lecturers. Student-staff ratio is impressive and enables small scale education. The committee is very impressed by the research competencies of the staff involved in the programmes. The high quality is clearly reflected in the quality of the courses and thesis work. Also, the staff is involved in continuously improving their didactical skills. During thesis work students work in the Chair Group and get four hours of individual supervision per week, to discuss their progress, research approach, and problems that may arise. 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.

Teaching methods are well balanced within and between courses. Many courses include a certain amount of attention to feedback and reflection. The committee was impressed by the collaboration between management, staff, students and programme committees in their focus to 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. Overall the teaching-learning environment impressed the committee.

Standard 3: Assessment and achieved learning outcomes
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 learning outcomes at the course level are connected to the intended learning outcomes at the programme level. The committee is very positive about the use of different assessment strategies within and between courses. Although formalization of the assessment strategy is still in progress, the committee is convinced that it will be a good strategy. 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 committee concludes that the programme provides a balanced set of assessments.
Overall, the committee was impressed by the level of the theses, and it agreed with all the grades. It was clear to the committee that the thesis projects are executed in excellent research surroundings. It would be beneficial to the students to equalize the outlines of the thesis projects. The success rates show that 60-80% of the students finish within the nominal duration of two years, and up to 95% within three years. The number of drop-outs has been relatively low in recent years. Most graduates easily find a job at the academic level, 19% find a PhD position. In 2011 a survey was held among alumni, which showed that Dutch graduates of the programme work in a wide variety of organizations. This is also true for the international graduates.

Aanbevelingen
De NVAO onderschrijft de aanbevelingen van het panel om
- een verbeterde beschrijving van de doelstellingen op te stellen;
- bij het beoordelen van afstudeertheses consequent de rubrics te gebruiken;
- de opzet van afstudeerprojecten enigermate gelijk te trekken.

Besluit

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 Plant Sciences (120 ECTS; variant: voltijd; locatie: Wageningen) van Wageningen Universiteit te Wageningen. De opleiding kent de volgende afstudeerrichtingen: Crop Science; Greenhouse Horticulture; Natural Resource Management; Plant Breeding and Genetic Resources; Plant Pathology and Entomology. 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

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.

 Bijlage 1: Schematisch overzicht oordelen panel

Onderwerp	Standaard	Beoordeling door het panel *voltijd*
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.

 Bijlage 2: Feitelijke gegevens

Docent-student ratio	1 : 6.8

Kwalificatie docenten	91% PhD 9% wo-ma

Studielast	42 uur per week

Contacturen

jaar	aantal in dat jaar	% van 1680
1	680	40
2	112 of 160*	7 of 10*

*afhankelijk van de keuze tussen een academische stage of een tweede thesis

Rendement

cohort	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
omvang bij start	30	33	48	40	43	55	69	95
diploma na 2 jaar (%)	80	73	67	68	77	69		
diploma na 3 jaar (%)	93	85	88	90	95			
diploma na 4 jaar (%)	93	85	88	93				
uitval 1 oktober 2010 (%)	7	15	13	8	5	9	3	

 Bijlage 3: panelsamenstelling

- 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).