

Besluit **Besluit strekkende tot het verlenen van accreditatie aan de opleiding wo-master Biology van de Wageningen University**

Gegevens

datum	Naam instelling	:	Wageningen University
31 augustus 2016	Naam opleiding	:	wo-master Biology (120 EC)
onderwerp	Datum aanvraag	:	29 maart 2016
Besluit	Variant opleiding	:	voltijd
accreditatie wo-master	Afstudeerrichtingen	:	Animal Adaptation and Behavioural Biology Bio-interactions Molecular Ecology Conservation and Systems Ecology Evolution and Biodiversity Health and Disease Marine Biology Molecular Development and Gene Regulation Plant Adaptation
Biology van de Wageningen University (004631)			
ons kenmerk			
NVAO/20161813/LL			
bijlagen			
2			
	Locatie opleiding	:	Wageningen
	Datum goedkeuren		
	panel	:	22 juni 2015
	Datum locatiebezoeken	:	17 en 18 september 2015
	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

Master's programme Biology

The master's programme Biology aims to provide students with a broad overview of the latest developments in the academic field, ranging from genes tot ecosystems. Students

Pagina 2 van 5 learn to critically discuss and reflect on current scientific developments. They broaden and deepen their knowledge and skills in one of nine specialisations: Animal Adaptation and Behavioural Biology, Bio-interactions, Molecular Ecology, Conservation and Systems Ecology, Evolution and Biodiversity, Health and Disease, Marine Biology, Molecular Development and Gene Regulation, and Plant Adaptation.

The panel has established that the intended learning outcomes of the master'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 of biological entities. The panel would welcome a future-directed view on the outcomes, recognizing the central role of Biology in 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 two-years English taught programme kicks off with the compulsory course Frontiers in Biology, intended to introduce students to the latest developments in the discipline. Students take two courses in one of nine specialisations and have another 30 EC to spend on either optional courses or a thesis. In the remaining 12 EC of the first year, students have a constrained choice. Students orienting on a PhD position can improve their skills in writing and defending a scientific research proposal in the Research Master Cluster, whilst students aiming for a job at MSc level upon graduation can join the Academic Consultancy Training and two Modular Skills Training courses. The second year consists of three elements. Students do an internship, write a master thesis proposal and complete their studies by writing a master thesis on a research project.

The panel has established that the programme adequately offers students a notable total of nine specialisations, further underpinned by a course offering insight into state-of-the-art research in the broad field of Biology and either the Academic Consultancy Training or the Research Master Cluster. The panel is positive about the fact that the master's programme also offers a compulsory internship, but feels that the programme does not yet benefit from its full potential to further develop the students' potential for applied science.

Apart from teaching methods that are well established for master's programmes in Biology, the programme has recently introduced the 'thesis ring', allowing students to peer review each other's work on their final research project. The panel regards this initiative as a good practice. The programme's success rates are quite acceptable, but have dropped over the past few years. Those rates may be improved if thesis supervisors would take further responsibility and stimulate students to finish their thesis in time.

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 effectively execute research-based education. 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 about the quality of the programme's assessment system,

Pagina 3 van 5 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.

All of the theses written by graduates of the master's programme the panel has studied demonstrate a high level of achieved learning outcomes. Furthermore, the panel concludes that master graduates are well appreciated on the job market, in as well as outside academia.

Master'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

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.

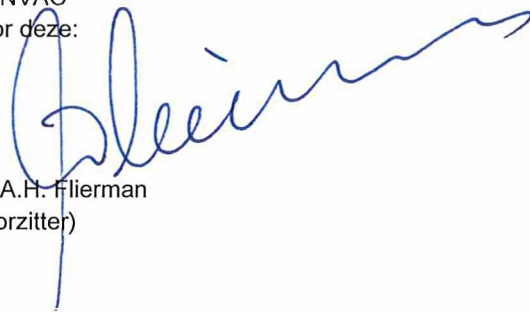
De NVAO besluit accreditatie te verlenen aan de wo-master Biology (120 EC; variant: voltijd; locatie: Wageningen) van de Wageningen University te Wageningen. De opleiding kent de volgende afstudeerrichtingen: Animal Adaptation and Behavioural Biology, Bio-interactions, Molecular Ecology, Conservation and Systems Ecology, Evolution and Biodiversity, Health and Disease, Marine Biology, Molecular Development and Gene Regulation en Plant Adaptation.

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).