

Besluit

Besluit strekkende tot het verlenen van accreditatie aan de opleiding wo-master Organic Agriculture van Wageningen Universiteit

	datum	Gegevens	
	28 juni 2013	Naam instelling	: Wageningen Universiteit
	onderwerp	Naam opleiding	: wo-master Organic Agriculture (120 ECTS)
	Besluit	Datum aanvraag	: 11 december 2012
accreditatie wo-master		Variant opleiding	: voltijd
Organic Agriculture van		Afstudeerrichtingen	: Agro Ecology
Wageningen Universiteit			: Consumer and Market
(001187)		Locatie opleiding	: Wageningen
uw kenmerk		Datum goedkeuren	
12/31439		panel	: 1 februari 2012
ons kenmerk		Datum locatiebezoeken	: 18, 19 april 2012
NVAO/20132134/SL		Datum visitatierapport	: 26 oktober 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 Plantenwetenschappen en de masteropleidingen Plant Sciences, Organic Agriculture en Plant Biotechnology van Wageningen Universiteit. Het panel heeft de vier opleidingen gezamenlijk beoordeeld.

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

Standard 1: Intended Learning Outcomes

As a result of increased environmental concern and consumer interest, Organic Agriculture is now globally recognized as a defined sector. In order to meet the challenge of producing healthy, socially responsible and ecologically sound food, the master programme in Organic Agriculture explores food production, food consumption and multi-functional land use from the viewpoint of many disciplines, multiple perspectives and different geographical scales. A system approach therefore characterizes both the research and education domains in organic agriculture. The programme prepares students for a wide range of positions related to multiple land use, organic agriculture and the food production chain.

The master programme in Organic Agriculture has clearly succeeded in positioning itself next to the other master programmes. It is an academic programme that supplies graduates all over the world. Similar to the other programmes the profile on paper could improve, especially since the programme management has clear and impressive ideas about the objective and profile of the programme. 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. The committee concludes that international requirements of the field and discipline are met.

Standard 2: Teaching-Learning Environment

The committee has studied the various aspects of the teaching and learning environment and believes it is extremely well organized. The programme was renewed in 2007, following recommendations of students, and adopted a teaching and learning environment that mimics many of the principles underlying organic agriculture: experimental, authentic, interactive and interdisciplinary. The curriculum has been designed to provide a balance between fundamental and applied science. Contributing Chair Groups work in various areas, thus achieving an interdisciplinary and integrated programme.

Specific courses have been developed to ensure that the learning experience is more than the sum of the individual contributions of the Chair Groups involved. The committee specifically mentions the Master class Organic Agriculture as an interesting course that stimulates multidisciplinary. The committee concluded that the programme was clearly designed by the programme management, who did so very successfully. Despite the large number of electives, the programme clearly forms an entity. The one criticism is that the university wide used year schedule does not provide space and time for a unique course like the Master class Organic Agriculture. The Education Institute and programme management should find a solution to deal with the additional study load this course adds to the regular programme. A balanced combination of teaching methods is used in the different courses. The course coordinator and lecturers clearly search for the best teaching methods to realise the learning outcomes of the course. The committee considers the programme a best practice, regarding the amount of attention paid to feedback and reflection on the programme and the courses. The committee was impressed by the collaboration between management, staff, students and programme committees in their focus to continuously improve the programmes. The student-staff ratio enables frequent interaction between staff and students. Research qualities of the staff are impressive. Also, the staff is involved in continuously improving their didactical skills. 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. Approximately 25% of the enrolling students is Dutch. Over the years the number of

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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. In none of the programmes the committee found a thesis that should not have passed. 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 fluctuate strongly as a result of low student numbers. On average, 42-76% of the students finish the programme within two years, and up to 87% in three years. Almost all international students complete the programme within two years. Since 2007 the drop-out rates have been strongly reduced, coinciding with the new design of the programme. In addition to PhD positions, graduates start outside academia in a wide variety of functions in the domain and level of the programme.

Aanbevelingen

De NVAO onderschrijft de aanbevelingen van het panel om

- de beschrijving van het profiel te verbeteren;
- een oplossing te zoeken voor het probleem van de extra studiebelasting door de Master Class Organic Agriculture;
- bij het beoordelen van afstudeerscripties consequent de rubrics te gebruiken;
- de opzet van afstudeerprojecten enigermate gelijk te trekken.

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 Organic Agriculture (120 ECTS; variant: voltijd; locatie: Wageningen) van Wageningen Universiteit te Wageningen. De opleiding kent de volgende afstudeerrichtingen: Agro Ecology; Consumer and Market. 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

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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	E
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 : 5.4
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Kwalificatie docenten	90% PhD 10% wo-ma
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Studielast	42 uur per week
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Contacturen

jaar	aantal in dat jaar	% van 1680
1	620	37
2	112	7

Rendement

cohort	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
omvang bij start	11	12	17	25	15	13	23	32
diploma na 2 jaar (%)	64	42	76	44	60	54		
diploma na 3 jaar (%)	82	67	82	52	87			
diploma na 4 jaar (%)	82	75	82	64				
diploma na 5 jaar (%)	82	83	82					
uitval 1 oktober 2010 (%)	18	17	18	24	7	0	4	

- 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).