

Besluit

Besluit strekkende tot het verlengen van de geldigheidsduur van het accreditatiebesluit van 27 november 2007 als bedoeld in artikel 5a.12a van de Wet op het hoger onderwijs en wetenschappelijk onderzoek van de opleiding wo-master European Public Affairs van de Universiteit Maastricht tot en met 29 juni 2016 (herstelperiode)

datum

30 juni 2014

onderwerp

Besluit verlengen

geldigheidsduur accreditatie

wo-master

European Public Affairs van de

Universiteit Maastricht

(002378)

uw kenmerk

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ons kenmerk

NVAO/20142231/SL

bijlagen

Beoordelingskaders

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- Beoordelingskader voor de beperkte opleidingsbeoordeling van de NVAO (Stort. 2010, nr 21523);
- Artikel 5a.12a van de WHW (Stb. 2010, 293);
- Accreditatiebesluit WHW (Stb. 2011, 536).

Advies van het visitatiepanel

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

Standard 1: Intended learning outcomes

The committee assesses Standard 1 as satisfactory.

The master's programme European Public Affairs is oriented towards the professional practice of public affairs in the European Union (EU). The programme defines public affairs as the process of developing and influencing public – European Union – policy and states that the field is closely related to public policy and public administration. The goal of the programme is to prepare students for a career in European or EU-related public affairs and public service. For a successful career in the EU public affairs domain graduates must be academics who know how to analyse, critically evaluate and research EU policy problems. The committee appreciates the niche the programme fills within the domain of European

Inlichtingen

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Pagina 2 van 8 Studies. The learning outcomes of the programme are formulated at master's level and sufficiently reflect its research orientation and the domains and knowledge base the international field requires. They guarantee that students gain knowledge of the system of European governance, the way policy is made in the European Union in the main fields of its competences, and in each stage of the policy cycle. Students also learn about contemporary events, developments and debates related to the process of European integration.

Standard 2: Teaching-learning environment

The committee assesses Standard 2 as satisfactory.

The one-year master's programme (60 EC) is organised in cooperation with the European Institute of Public Administration. It consists of four modules (one 4-week module and three 8-week modules) and an Integrated Skills Track that runs in parallel to these four modules. Students conclude the programme by following a 12-week internship (18 EC). The committee assessed that the work experience students gained during the internship is relevant for their future employment. It concludes that the internship guarantees the professional orientation of the programme.

The first three modules of the programme focus mainly on EU policy making. The fourth module analyses the impact of the EU at the Member State level. The committee concludes that the learning outcomes are sufficiently addressed in all four modules. However, it finds that the theoretical framework in module four is somewhat weak as it lacks solid theories that can be applied or used when implementing policy, for example. It also advises the programme to communicate to students more clearly what is expected of them in module four. The committee concludes that the level of the courses suffices. Communication, research and academic skills are trained in the Integrated Skills Track that runs parallel to the four modules.

In the near future, students will undergo an assessment to establish their starting level. The committee is positive about the programme's focus on skills and is positive about the programme's plans to develop the track further because its primary focus currently mainly lies on professional skills relevant to the public affairs profession. Academic skills are not yet sufficiently trained. In contrast to all other programmes the university offers, the master's programme European Public Affairs does not use Problem-Based Learning (PBL) as its didactical concept. The learning methods support students in becoming independent critical thinkers. The programme offers knowledge on an advanced level, and requires students to use the literature as a basis for developing new and original insights into the subject matter, for instance in the form of research assignments and projects. The committee concludes that the didactical approach of the programme matches the intended learning outcomes. The committee concluded that the international profile of the programme is sufficiently reflected in the composition of the staff. Lecturers come from a wide variety of countries, and represent different departments, such as History, Politics, and Philosophy. They participate in national or international research schools and networks. The programmes aims to involve practitioners who actively bridge the academic and practical world in their professional lives in order to pass on the link between academia and practice. The programme also regularly invites guest speakers with relevant and interesting backgrounds. The committee appreciates that the areas of expertise of the staff are closely related to the intended learning outcomes of the programme. Furthermore, the committee finds that the didactic quality of the staff is sufficiently guaranteed.

Pagina 3 van 8 The committee concluded that the programme specific quality assurance is guaranteed by the active approach of the Programme Committee (PC).

Standard 3: Assessment and achieved learning outcomes
The committee assesses Standard 3 as unsatisfactory.

The Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences has one Board of Examiners that monitors the quality of the achieved learning outcomes by checking the examination dossier of individual students. At the time of the site visit this check has a procedural character, focussing – for example - on plagiarism and a filled-out assessment form. The Board has concrete plans to start monitoring the content of the examinations and theses. During the site visit the Board explained that it is also working on an internship assessment policy. The committee concludes that the Board plays a pro-active role in the quality assurance of the assessments in the master's programme.

The committee concludes that the system of assessment is valid and transparent. It studied exams from the core modules of the master's programme and concluded that the exams thoroughly assess academic knowledge and its application. The committee also found that the methods of assessment are varied and suitable for the assessment of the learning outcomes. In order to assess the achieved learning outcomes, the committee studied internship reports before the site visit. It also examined evaluation papers that students had written for module four, as the programme management had stated that these papers reflect the academically oriented learning outcomes. The committee encountered several problems in determining whether the learning outcomes had been achieved.

Firstly, the committee found it difficult to assess the achieved learning outcomes without a thesis as a final project. The committee stresses that the achieved learning outcomes, as far as academic research and writing skills are concerned, ideally culminate in a thesis.

Secondly, the committee concludes that the evaluation papers of module four do not consistently comprise substantial academic research. The committee observed that the character of the evaluation papers had a more descriptive rather than academic nature. Finally, the internship report does not have a substantial academic component. The requirements that the programme has set for the internship report do not contain explicit academic criteria that one would expect in a final project.

Students can pass module four with a grade lower than a 6 for the evaluation paper. Therefore, the evaluation paper cannot serve as a final project with which the achieved learning outcomes can be assessed. The committee concludes that if the evaluation paper can be compensated and the internship report does not contain a research component, students can graduate without having demonstrated academic research skills. The committee therefore strongly advises the programme to develop the evaluation paper of module four further into a significant research project that can serve as a master's thesis. As students do not conclude their studies with a substantial written account of academic research, and neither the evaluation paper nor the internship report contain a substantial amount of research, the committee concludes that the programme cannot guarantee that students achieve the expected academic research and writing skills. As academic research is essential to an academic master's degree, the committee concludes that the most important learning outcomes cannot be achieved in the programme.

Bij brief van 31 januari 2014 heeft de instelling een verzoek gedaan om het toekennen van een herstelperiode. Een herstelplan was daarbij gevoegd. De NVAO heeft hierop de instelling verzocht het herstelplan, op basis van specifieke criteria, aan te vullen en aan de commissie voor te leggen.

Bij brief van 20 mei 2014 heeft de instelling een herstelplan aangeboden en om toekenning van een herstelperiode gevraagd, mede op advies van de commissie. De commissie schrijft over het herstelplan van de masteropleiding European Public Affairs het volgende:

De opleiding heeft ontgezegd een aantal stappen gezet om aan de bevindingen van de commissie tegemoet te komen. De commissie heeft gelezen dat de opleidingen op basis van de bevindingen verbeterpunten heeft geformuleerd, waarvan de meeste en belangrijkste zijn doorgevoerd of binnenkort ter hand zullen worden genomen. Zij spreekt dan ook een positief advies uit ten aanzien van het Verbeterplan en de Aanvulling op het Verbeterplan. Zij meent dat de opleiding met de voorgestelde maatregelen in staat is om het voor accreditatie vereiste niveau van basiskwaliteit te realiseren.

De masteropleiding European Public Affairs heeft een voldoende balans gevonden tussen enerzijds de wens om de stage te behouden en anderzijds de vraag om het academische gehalte van de opleiding te garanderen. De verduidelijking en herziening van het eindwerk en van het gehele curriculum bieden voldoende garantie dat de opleiding de academische vereisten kan halen.

Advies van panel over het herstelplan

Het panel is alles overwegende van oordeel dat de NVAO de opleiding de kans zou moeten geven het herstelplan ten uitvoer te brengen.

Conclusie NVAO

Op basis van het herstelplan en het positieve advies van het panel daarover besluit de NVAO tot toepassing van het bepaalde in artikel 5a.12a van de WHW (herstelperiode). Naar het oordeel van de NVAO is met het herstelplan en het positieve oordeel daarover van het panel voldoende aannemelijk gemaakt dat de opleiding binnen de termijn van twee jaar alsnog aan het toepasselijke kader zal voldoen. De NVAO leest zowel in het paneladvies als in het herstelplan dat de opleiding reeds is gestart met activiteiten die de kwaliteit van de opleiding verbeteren.

Ingevolge het bepaalde in artikel 5a.10, derde lid, van de WHW heeft de NVAO het college van bestuur van de Universiteit Maastricht in de gelegenheid gesteld zijn zienswijze op het voornemen tot besluit van 10 juni 2014 naar voren te brengen. Bij e-mail van 17 juni 2014 heeft de instelling gereageerd op het voornemen tot besluit. Dit heeft geleid tot enkele aanpassingen in het besluit.

Op grond van het voorgaande besluit de NVAO tot verlenging van de geldigheidsduur van het accreditatiebesluit van 27 november 2007 van de opleiding wo-master European Public Affairs (60 ECTS; variant: voltijd; locatie: Maastricht) van de Universiteit Maastricht te Maastricht tot en met 29 juni 2016.

Ingevolge het bepaalde in artikel 5a.12a, vierde lid van de WHW dient het instellingsbestuur een aanvraag om een besluit tot vaststelling dat de opleiding alsnog aan het toepasselijke kader voldoet, uiterlijk in te dienen op 1 januari 2016.

Den Haag, 30 juni 2014

De NVAO
Voor deze:

Anne Fierman
(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.

Pagina 6 van 8 **Bijlage 1: Schematisch overzicht oordelen panel**

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	Voldoende
3. Toetsing en gerealiseerde eindkwalificaties	De opleiding beschikt over een adequaat systeem van toetsing en toont aan dat de beoogde eindkwalificaties worden gerealiseerd	Onvoldoende
Eindoordeel		Onvoldoende

Tabel 1: Rendement.

Cohort	2009	2010	2011
Rendement	96%	93%	80%

Tabel 2: Docentkwaliteit.

Graad	Ma	PhD	BKO
Percentage	0%	100%	64%

Tabel 3: Student-docentratio.

Ratio	23
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Tabel 4: Contacturen.

Studiejaar	1
Contacturen	10

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- Prof. Marjan Schwegman (chair), professor of Politics and Culture in the long twentieth century, University of Utrecht, and director of NIOD;
- Prof. Luc François, professor of Contemporary History and former director of Educational Matters, University of Ghent;
- Prof. Jan Orbis, university senior lecturer on EU External Relations, University of Ghent;
- Dr. Ulrich Tiedau, senior lecturer on Modern Low Countries History and Society, University College London;
- Prof. Ingeborg Tömmel, emeritus professor of International and European Politics, University of Osnabrück.
- Anne Stikkerts, bachelor student of International Relations, University of Groningen.

During the site visit, the committee was supported by M. Jansen (certified), who acted as secretary. M. Frederik (certified), overall project co-ordinator, took over as secretary after the site visit. In the final stages, L. te Marvelde (certified) acted as liaison for the committee and the institution.