

Amsterdamse Hogeschool voor de Kunsten  
College van bestuur  
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1001 MB AMSTERDAM

## Besluit **Besluit strekkende tot een positieve beoordeling van een aanvraag om accreditatie van de opleiding hbo-master of Music van de Amsterdamse Hogeschool voor de Kunsten**

|                                 |                           |  |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|--|
| <b>datum</b>                    | <b>Algemene gegevens:</b> |  |
| 21 februari 2012                | Naam instelling           | : Amsterdamse Hogeschool voor de Kunsten |
| <b>onderwerp</b>                | Naam opleiding            | : hbo-master of Music (120 ECTS)         |
| Definitief besluit accreditatie | Datum aanvraag            | : 22 juli 2011                           |
| hbo-master                      | Variant opleiding         | : voltijd                                |
| Muziek Amsterdamse              | Afstudeerrichtingen       | : Classical music en jazz                |
| Hogeschool voor de Kunsten      | Locatie opleiding         | : Amsterdam                              |
| (#5339)                         | Datum goedkeuren          |  |
| <b>ons kenmerk</b>              | panel                     | : 2 april 2011                           |
| NVAO/20120509/ND                | Datum locatiebezoek       | : 6, 7 en 8 juni 2011                    |
| <b>bijlagen</b>                 | Datum visitatierapport    | : 20 juli 2011                           |
| 1                               |                           |  |

### **Beoordelingskader:**

Beoordelingskader voor de beperkte opleidingsbeoordeling van de NVAO (Stcrt. 2010, nr 21523).

### **Bevindingen**

De NVAO stelt vast dat in het visitatierapport deugdelijk en kenbaar is gemotiveerd op welke gronden het panel de kwaliteit van de opleiding excellent heeft bevonden.

### **Advies van het visitatiepanel**

#### *Samenvatting bevindingen en overwegingen panel*

#### Standard 1: good

The Conservatoire of Amsterdam has designed a solid course framework with six final competencies to guide students through the programme. These core competencies show a distinct orientation towards the work field of the Professional Masters.

The reinforcement and deepening of the student's musical artistry, realised through musical productions, is the leading competence and this 'first core qualification' is given priority, with the other five competencies supporting this overarching course objective.

The panel considers the intended learning outcomes fully adequate and very appropriate to attaining the Masters level. They are clearly tied in with the so called 'Polifonia/Dublin Descriptors', developed by the AEC (the European membership organisation for conservatoires) which specify the general level of the Professional Master of Music.

Pagina 2 van 6 The set of qualification statements is clearly recognized as good by the work field. Level-wise the set of qualifications is pitched where it should be, but the intended learning outcomes of the course do not spell out any distinctive features that would necessarily make them demonstrably superior to other sets of final qualifications in the field of Conservatoires, either in the Netherlands or abroad.  
Therefore the panel's judgement on this standard reads 'good'.

#### Standard 2: excellent

The curriculum is followed along individual study paths and shows a carefully-considered and widely-debated concern for achieving a good balance between theoretical and practical components. It clearly ties in with the final qualifications. An attractive didactical concept is in place and the Conservatoire ensures that individual study paths have similar study loads and yield comparable Masters-level results.

The panel questions the Conservatoire's acceptance of a 25% drop-out rate which, in the eyes of the panel members, needs more analysis and would not be so readily accepted in other national contexts. The panel also senses some contradictions between the ambitions of the Conservatoire to excel and its acceptance of a 6 months' latitude for finalizing the outcome of some students' Masters qualifications.

An international setting is guaranteed by the Conservatoire's multi-national population and the international cultural environment that Amsterdam has to offer. The programme is also conducted completely in English, which naturally attracts students from abroad.

The Conservatoire offers a solid research programme, both in year one and two. This is clearly not considered a 'tag-on', but a fundamental part of the course. Panel members valued the research concept that has been adopted and saw its outcome as uniquely-well attuned to the needs of a modern and relevant Master of Music programme. Research has been tied strongly to the main subject, which makes the execution of a research project potentially feasible for all students. The Research Reader has a clear view on potential developments and is indeed in charge of the development of the applied research programme. The senior staff have a clear policy to get all teachers on board, for which the Conservatoire should be commended.

The teaching staff are well-qualified and well-motivated and those interviewed made a strong, positive impression on the panel. Many students testify they are inspired by their teachers. Staff numbers are sufficient. The execution of the HR performance cycle, particularly in the classical department, needs attention, but senior staff recognise this and have plans to address it.

The housing and facilities of the Conservatoire are outstanding and perfectly suit the needs of a Master of Music.

The Master of Music departments of the Conservatoire benefit from the centralized quality assurance system of the Amsterdamse Hogeschool voor de Kunsten (AHK). It produces useful management information on the basis of the input of all relevant stakeholders. Judging from the improvements the Conservatoire has implemented since the previous accreditation audit, the programme team has demonstrated the ability to take quality assurance issues seriously.

Taking into account all of the findings, the panel considers three elements within this standard to outweigh the others. These comprise (i) the design and execution of the programme, (ii) the quality of the teaching staff and (iii) the quality of the actual learning and teaching environment, i.e. the housing and the facilities in particular.

All three of those aspects are considered of a fine quality and definitely lie in the top band of standards to be found in Masters programmes in Music across the European Higher Education Area.

Pagina 3 van 6 Therefore the panel awards the Amsterdam Conservatoire an 'excellent' for this standard.

Standard 3: excellent

The Conservatoire has an examination system in place that matches the didactical approach and also the intended Masters level of the programme. Examination procedures which were directly evaluated were judged to be valid in their outcomes, but at some points in the process not always reliable in their methods and controls. In the recommendation section of this report the panel has given some suggestions for improvement.

All tests and exams that the panel has inspected are definitely of a Masters level. In spite of the fact that at the exams' assessment criteria are not always explicitly referred to in the juries' judgements, students seem to feel well-prepared by their teachers, and by their day-to-day assimilation of institutional standards and expectations, to understand which assessment criteria they are supposed to meet.

The panel members are unconditionally positive about the achieved Masters level of the students. They have reached their conclusion on the basis of reviewing research material and recordings of students performing prior to the audit, as well as by attending actual examination sessions as part of the audit.

Notwithstanding its view that some of the more formal aspects of the examination system, especially with regards to the application of explicit criteria, could still be improved, the panel is of the opinion that the outstanding results of both the transitional exams and the finals are such that an 'excellent' rating for standard 3 is applicable.

Overall conclusion: excellent

In weighing up all of the above, according to the panel, it is first-and-foremost the achievements that count. And these are quite convincing: at the Conservatoire the panel has seen (i) a clear set of qualifications that lays down the right standards for the entire programme, (ii) a well-designed and challenging curriculum that offers ample opportunities for individual Masters students to bring out the best in themselves, (iii) highly motivated and inspiring teachers, (iv) a stimulating environment with outstanding facilities, and (v) a proper examination system that needs a few minor improvements to even better fit its purpose.

Taking into account all of the findings, the auditors have concluded that the Master of Music programme of the Amsterdam Conservatoire shows a quality that is outstanding both from a Dutch and a European perspective.

Therefore the panel rates the entire Masters programme of the Conservatorium van Amsterdam as 'excellent'.

Pagina 4 van 6 **Aanbevelingen:**

De NVAO verwijst naar de aanbevelingen in het visitatierapport op pagina's 29 en 30.

**Besluit**

Op grond van het voorgaande besluit de NVAO dat accreditatie wordt verleend aan de hbo-master Muziek (120 ECTS; variant: voltijd; locatie: Amsterdam) van de Amsterdamse Hogeschool voor de Kunsten te Amsterdam. De opleiding kent de volgende afstudeerrichtingen: Classical music en jazz. Ingevolge het bepaalde in artikel 5a.10, tweede lid, van de WHW heeft de NVAO het college van bestuur van de Amsterdamse Hogeschool voor de Kunsten in de gelegenheid gesteld zijn zienswijze op het voornemen tot besluit van 16 januari 2012 naar voren te brengen. Bij e-mail van 20 februari 2012 heeft het college van bestuur ingestemd met het voornemen tot besluit. De NVAO beoordeelt de kwaliteit van de opleiding als excellent.

Dit besluit treedt in werking op 25 juli 2012 en is van kracht tot en met 24 juli 2018.

Den Haag, 21 februari 2012

Nederlands-Vlaamse Accreditatieorganisatie

*ben*  
  
Lucien Bollaert  
(bestuurder)

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.

## Schematisch overzicht oordelen panel

| Onderwerp   | Standaard   | Beoordeling door het panel |
|---|---|----------------------------|
|   |   | <i>voltijd</i>             |
| <b>1. Beoogde eindkwalificaties</b>                   | De beoogde eindkwalificaties van de opleiding zijn wat betreft inhoud, niveau en oriëntatie geconcretiseerd en voldoen aan internationale eisen                   | G                          |
| <b>2. Onderwijsleeromgeving</b>                       | Het programma, het personeel en de opleidingsspecifieke voorzieningen maken het voor de instromende studenten mogelijk de beoogde eindkwalificaties te realiseren | E                          |
| <b>3. Toetsing en gerealiseerde eindkwalificaties</b> | De opleiding beschikt over een adequaat systeem van toetsing en toont aan dat de beoogde eindkwalificaties worden gerealiseerd                                    | E                          |
| <b>Eindoordeel</b>                                    |   | <b>E</b>                   |

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.